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ESTABLISHING THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK AND MISCELLANEOUS BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS IN THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, RESERVED
WATER AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-NINTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

S. 2384

A BILL TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW 95-625 TO PERMIT THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN LANDS FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE SITE FOR THE NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER, WEST VIRGINIA

S. 2506

A BILL TO ESTABLISH A GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK IN THE STATE OF NEVADA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

S. 2534

A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF A MAINLAND TOUR BOAT FACILITY FOR THE FORT SUMTER NATIONAL MONUMENT, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

JULY 18, 1986

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ESTABLISHING THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK AND MISCELLANEOUS BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS IN THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

FRIDAY, JULY 18, 1986

U.S. SENATE, SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, RESERVED WATER AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:35 a.m., in room SD-366, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Chic Hecht, presiding.

Present: Senators Hecht and Rockefeller

Also present: Tony Bevinetto, professional staff member; and Thomas B. Williams, professional staff member for minority

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. CHIC HECHT, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEVADA

Senator HECHT. Will everyone please take a seat.

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. This morning the Subcommittee on Public Lands, Reserved Water and Resource Conservation will hear testimony on the following bills:

S. 2384, to amend Public Law 95-625 to permit acquisition of certain lands for an administrative site for the New River Gorge National River, WV;

S. 2506, to establish a Great Basin National Park in the State of Nevada, and for other purposes; and

S. 2534, to authorize the acquisition and development of a mainland tour boat facility for the Fort Sumter National Monument, SC, and for other purposes.

I will place a copy of each of these bills in the hearing record.

The hearing record will remain open for 2 weeks after today during which time written testimony on any of these measures can be submitted to the subcommittee. In the interest of time, I would ask the witnesses to limit their oral statements to 5 minutes. Please keep an eye on the lighted timer we have displayed. When you see the yellow light come on you will know that you have 1 minute remaining to speak. Please begin to make your concluding remarks at that time, and when the red light comes on finish your sentence and then stop. Additional written comments may be provided and the entire testimony, oral and written, will be included in the record.

Before we begin with the witnesses I'd like to turn for a moment to S. 2506. The Great Basin is one of the few major geographic and geologic regions in our country that is not yet represented in the National Park System. Lawmakers and the conservation community have been aware of this oversight since 1924, when Senator Key Pittman of Nevada introduced the first national park bill for the area.

The area to become a national park through S. 2506 has already been recognized by the Federal Government as having much to commend it for preservation in the national interest.

The Lehman Caves National Monument to be included in the park contains remarkable mineral formations. Wheeler Peak, one of the main park attractions, includes what many consider to be a glacial remnant from the Ice Age. Several groves of bristlecone pine trees, the oldest living things on our planet, are also found within the borders of the proposed Great Basin National Park.

Past park proposals have ranged in size from the 20,000-acre Pittman proposal to the much larger 174,000-acre proposal that passed the House earlier this year. I know the administration has concerns over the budgetary impact and multiple use conflicts that are posed by the House bill. I believe the 44,000-acre Senate bill minimizes these problems and is a more acceptable approach.

The bill which Senator Laxalt and I introduced contains all the key natural features which should be included in a Great Basin National Park. It also reduces potential conflicts with the traditional industries of White Pine County, ranching and mining. For instance, while the House bill contains 828 valid unpatented mining claims, the Senate bill only contains an estimated 200 such claims. The House bill says grazing may continue in the park. The Senate bill says it shall continue as before, and allows a rancher to try to exchange grazing allotments inside the park for any that might become available outside the park.

To minimize the costs to the taxpayer of creating a new park, I have deliberately excluded all private inholdings from the park boundaries. The Senate park proposal would therefore require little or no money for land acquisition. In contrast, the House bill puts valuable private land into that park.

Some of the visitor facilities needed for a park already exist. There is therefore little need to spend a lot of money on park development. I believe this area of Nevada is a truly beautiful example of the mountain ranges which typify the Great Basin, and will make a great contribution to our country's National Park System.

We have a statement from Senator Laxalt, which will be included in the record today.

[The texts of the bills and the prepared statement of Senator Laxalt follow:]

II

99TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2384

To amend Public Law 95-625 to permit the acquisition of certain lands for an administrative site for the New River Gorge National River, West Virginia.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 29 (legislative day, APRIL 28), 1986

Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. BYRD) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

---

A BILL

To amend Public Law 95-625 to permit the acquisition of certain lands for an administrative site for the New River Gorge National River, West Virginia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 1102(a) of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-625) is amended by inserting the following after the second sentence: "In addition, the Secretary may acquire by any of the foregoing methods not to exceed ten acres outside the boundaries of the national river for an administrative headquarters site, and funds appropriated for land acquisition shall be available for the acquisition of the administrative headquarters site.".

○

99TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2506

To establish a Great Basin National Park in the State of Nevada, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21 (legislative day, MAY 19), 1986

Mr. HECHT (for himself and Mr. LAXALT) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

---

A BILL

To establish a Great Basin National Park in the State of Nevada, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SHORT TITLE

SECTION 1. This Act may be known as the "Great Basin National Park Act of 1986".

ESTABLISHMENT

SEC. 2. (a) In order to preserve for the benefit and inspiration of the people a representative segment of the Great Basin of the Western United States possessing outstanding resources and significant geological and scenic values, there is hereby established the Great Basin National Park (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the "park").

(b) The park shall consist of a national park area of approximately 44 thousand acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Boundary Map, Great Basin National Park, Nevada," numbered NA-GB 20,016, and dated April 1986. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, and the Office of the Superintendent, Great Basin National Park, Nevada.

ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 3. (a) The Secretary shall administer the park in accordance with this Act and with the provisions of law generally applicable to units of the national park system, including the Act entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes," approved August 26, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1-4). The Secretary shall protect, manage, and administer the park in such manner as to conserve and protect the scenery, the natural, geologic, historic, and archaeological resources of the park, including fish and wildlife and to provide for the public use and enjoyment of the same in such a manner as to perpetuate these qualities for future generations.

(b) The Secretary shall permit fishing on lands and waters under his jurisdiction within the park in accordance with the applicable laws of the United States and the State of

Nevada, except that he may designate zones where, and periods when, no fishing may be permitted for reasons of public safety. Except in emergencies, any regulations prescribing such restrictions relating to fishing, shall be put into effect only after consultation with the appropriate State agency having jurisdiction over fishing activities.

(c) After notice and opportunity for public hearing, the Secretary shall prepare a management plan for the park. The Secretary shall submit such plan to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate within three years after the enactment of this Act. Such plan may be amended from time-to-time. The plan shall provide for grazing within the park to the extent permitted under subsection (e). The plan shall contain provisions providing for the appropriate management of fish and wildlife and fishing within the park in accordance with subsection (b). Such provisions shall be adopted only after consultation with the appropriate State agency having jurisdiction over fishing activities.

(d) Subject to valid existing rights, Federal lands within the park, and interests therein, are withdrawn from disposition under the public land laws and from entry or appropriation under the mining laws of the United States, from the operation of the mineral leasing laws of the United States, and from operation of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970, as amended.

(e) Subject to such limitations, conditions, or regulations as he may prescribe, the Secretary shall permit grazing on lands within the park to the same extent as was permitted on such lands as of July 1, 1985.

(f) At the request of the affected persons, the Secretary of Agriculture shall negotiate an exchange with holders of valid existing grazing rights on land within the park for grazing rights of an equal number of animal unit months on land within the Humboldt National Forest. In negotiating the exchange, priority should be given to options involving Forest Service range improvement measures within the South Snake Division of the Humboldt National Forest.

(g) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to establish a reservation to the United States with respect to any water or water right on the lands described in Section 2 of this Act. Nor shall any provision of this Act be construed as authorizing the appropriations of water on lands described in Section 2 of this Act by the United States, except in accordance with the established law of the State of Nevada.

(h) The Secretary is authorized to construct a visitors' center within the exterior boundaries of the Park.

ACQUISITION OF LAND

SEC. 4. (a) The Secretary may acquire land or interests in land within the boundaries of the Park by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange, but no such lands or interests therein may be acquired without the consent of the owner thereof.

(b) Lands and waters, and interests therein, within the boundaries of the Park which are administered by the National Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture, and which, immediately before enactment of this Act, were within the exterior boundaries of the Humboldt National Forest, known as the South Snake Range (Wheeler Peak), are hereby transferred to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior to be administered in accordance with this Act. The boundaries of such national forest shall be adjusted accordingly.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 5. (a) Effective after October 1, 1986, not more than $300,000 is authorized to be appropriated for construction of a visitor center within the Park.

(b) Effective after October 1, 1986, not more than $500,000 is authorized to be appropriated for other development within the Park.

(c) Effective after October 1, 1986, not more than $200,000 is authorized to be appropriated for acquisition of lands and interests in land within the Park.

○

II

99th CONGRESS
2d Session

S. 2534

To authorize the acquisition and development of a mainland tour boat facility for the Fort Sumter National Monument, South Carolina, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

June 10 (legislative day, June 9), 1986

Mr. Thurmond (for himself and Mr. Hollings) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

---

A BILL

To authorize the acquisition and development of a mainland tour boat facility for the Fort Sumter National Monument, South Carolina, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in order to provide for needed facilities for visitors to Fort Sumter National Monument, including a tour boat dock and associated facilities, and an interpretive and museum facility in cooperation with the State of South Carolina and the city of Charleston, the Secretary of the Interior (in this Act referred to as the "Secretary"), is authorized to acquire by purchase with donated or appropriated funds, donation, or exchange, not to exceed 8.91 acres of lands, including submerged lands, and interests in lands, within the area generally depicted on the map entitled "Dockside II, Proposed Site, Tourboat Facility," which map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the National Park Service. When acquired, lands, including submerged lands and interests in lands, depicted on such map shall be administered by the Secretary as a part of Fort Sumter National Monument, subject to the laws and regulations applicable to such monument, and subject to the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 2. (a) With respect to the lands, including submerged lands, and interests in lands acquired pursuant to the first section of this Act, the Secretary is authorized—

(1) to convey, notwithstanding the provisions of section 5 of Public Law 90-400 (82 Stat. 356) and subject to the provisions of subsection (b), a leasehold interest in not to exceed one and a half acres to the State of South Carolina or the city of Charleston or either of them for development by either of them or their agents or lessees of a marine museum and associated administrative facilities;

(2) to grant covenants or easements for ingress, egress, and vehicular parking to the State of South Carolina, the city of Charleston, and to other parties as

the Secretary may deem necessary to facilitate public use; and

(3) to enter into cooperative agreements with the State of South Carolina, the city of Charleston, and other parties as the Secretary may deem necessary, pursuant to which construction, maintenance, and use of buildings, utilities, parking facilities, and other improvements may be shared among the parties to the agreement.

(b) Any conveyance made pursuant to subsection (a)(1) and any renewal thereof may be for a period of up to 50 years, and may include the option to purchase the property in fee by the lessee within the first 10 years, upon payment by the lessee of the cost of the property to the United States plus interest based on the average yield of United States Treasury notes with maturities of one year. The Secretary may convey title to the property in fee in the event such option to purchase is exercised, subject to the condition that the property is used for a public marine museum and associated administrative facilities. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any leasehold interest conveyed pursuant to subsection (a)(1) shall be conveyed without monetary consideration. The proceeds from any conveyance of property in fee pursuant to subsection (a)(1) shall be deposited in the Land

and Water Conservation Fund in the Treasury of the United States.

Sec. 3. Section 117 of Public Law 96–199 (94 Stat. 71) is hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, sums heretofore appropriated but not, on the date of enactment of this Act, obligated for construction of a tourboat facility at the Broad Street site, and for the acquisition and construction of the Fleet landing site for Fort Sumter National Monument, which was authorized by section 117 of Public Law 96–199 (94 Stat. 71) are hereby made available for obligation for the acquisition of the lands including submerged lands, and interests in lands identified in the first section of this Act and for construction of necessary facilities thereon, and to the extent that sums heretofore appropriated for land acquisition of the Fleet landing site are not sufficient to cover the cost of acquisition of the properties identified in the first section of this Act, sums heretofore appropriated for construction of facilities at the Broad Street site and the Fleet landing site may be obligated for the purposes of acquisition as authorized in the first section of this Act.

(b) In addition to the sums made available under subsection (a), there is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

○

Statement of Senator
Paul Laxalt
on S. 2506, Great Basin Park
July 18, 1986

Mr. Chairman:

I appreciate this opportunity to express my strong support for S. 2506, a bill to provide for the creation of a Great Basin National Park at Wheeler Peak in Nevada.

I want to address first the physical characteristics of the site which make it appropriate for National Park designation. The area within our proposed Park boundaries includes spectacular range features typical of the Great Basin. This Park will be the first and only national park representative of this vast Great Basin area. The park will include forests of bristlecone pine with representatives among the oldest of living plants. The Park will include a remnant active glacier, perhaps the only extant in the lower contiguous 48 states. It will include the present Lehman Caves national monument, numerous mountain lakes, streams, waterfalls and forests. Its features are, in fact, truly appropriate and worthy additions to the National Park system. The area has, in fact, been the subject of earlier park studies and park bills.

This area of the State has been important to Nevada and the nation for its mineral wealth and production of food and fiber for many years. It is important that those industries not be compromised by the Park addition and I believe that goal is possible. Our Park proposal has been carefully crafted to permit the continued viability of those industries side by side with the Park, continuing the policy of multiple use of our varied resources. Our proposed 44,000 acre Park includes all the important features of the range and permits their interpretive showcasing while avoiding undue disruption of traditional mining and livestock activities. Such activities are, after all, of historical worth, as well as of economic benefit, and are as worthy of preservation in their own right as are the scenic features of the proposed Park. I want to make clear that it is my intention, as a cosponsor of this Park legislation, to protect and preserve traditional mining and grazing activities within the remaining forest unit. There is simply no reason to restrict such activities outside the Park boundaries.

In that respect our bill differs from the park proposal already passed this year by the House of Representatives. That measure includes much more area with a resulting increased impact on historic economic activities. Moreover that bill converts the whole South Snake forest unit to Park Service management, a move I oppose. The Forest Service has well served the unit in the past and should, I believe, continue to manage the unit, the bulk of which will remain forest under our proposal. I do hope, Mr. Chairman, that we may convince our House colleagues of the strengths of the Park, as proposed in S. 2506.

I want to stress again that my support for the Park is based on the merits of the characteristics of the area. It is truly a magnificent representative of a vast area of our nation called the Great Basin and should be developed as a showcase and interpretive center for all our citizens. It is more than just a pretty place, although it certainly qualifies as a pretty place. To the extent it may bring some economic stimulus to White Pine County in Nevada, I will applaud that result as it is sorely needed there.

A Great Basin Park in the South Snake range has been the subject of earlier debate in the Senate. The proposal was justified then. It is justified now. I believe our bill is an appropriate vehicle to finally accomplish the creation of such a Park.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Before we start with our two distinguished Congressmen, I want to thank everyone from Nevada who has made a long trip out here. I will be anxious to hear all of your remarks.

Barbara, would you like to start?

STATEMENT OF HON. BARBARA F. VUCANOVICH, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF NEVADA

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. I would be very happy to, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much, and it is a pleasure for me to testify before you today.

Before I begin, I would also like to acknowledge our friends from Nevada, and personally welcome each of them to Washington, DC, and I would like to thank them for coming to express their opinions on the proposed Great Basin National Park. After all, it is the citizens of Nevada who will be directly affected by this park and who have a stake in the way Congress deals with our land.

I am here today to express my support for S. 2506, the legislation that will provide for a national park to be established in the great State of Nevada, the first national park for our State. This is of special interest to me as the proposed park will be completely in my District.

The area proposed for the Great Basin National Park is in the easternmost part of the State, near Ely. It covers most of the Wheeler Peak scenic area in the Lower Snake Division and encompasses such scenic landmarks as Wheeler Peak, the Lehman Caves National Monument, Mount Washington, the ancient bristlecone pine forest, Lincoln Peak, and Granite Peak.

The question of establishing a national park is not new, as you noted, Mr. Chairman. This has been a topic of discussion for the past 50 to 60 years. We are in a position in this Congress to pass a reasonable park bill and put this issue to rest. We will never be able to satisfy all parties, no matter how hard we try. However, S. 2506 is a compromise that should satisfy most people. It is a conservative park in terms of size and cost. It is being considered in the proper forum in this hearing here today. There has been a careful analysis of what is important and needs to be included, and as a result of that analysis it includes the most important features in the Lower Snake Division.

I do have some concerns, however. The first concern deals with mining claims within the proposed boundaries. I received a call regarding about 150 unpatented mining claims in the Mount Washington/Lincoln Peak area. These claims have been held since 1959, and yearly assessments have been made. All 150 lay within the park boundary. These are the types of concerns that need to be addressed. I strongly suggest to this committee that the mining claims held in this area be given your close attention and cooperation with the claimholders.

The second concern relates to grazing rights. This bill contains a section that lends support to individuals who hold grazing rights within the boundaries of the park. In section 3(f) it provides for the Secretary of Agriculture to negotiate with holders of valid existing grazing rights in the park and exchange them for grazing rights of an equal number on land within the Humboldt National Forest with priority going to areas within the South Snake Division of the Humboldt National Forest.

I believe this is an important section and urge the committee members to give it their full consideration.

Mr. Chairman, this is an important piece of legislation to the State of Nevada. It is time to establish a national park in the Great Basin of the Western United States. This is a beautiful part of our country and I am proud to have it in my district. I am also excited at the prospect of the Great Basin National Park becoming the newest member of an exclusive club, a club whose membership includes Zion National Park, the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone National Park, and Glacier National Park, to name a few.

That is all I have to say, Mr. Chairman. I thank you very much for allowing me to testify this morning.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Now for our other distinguished Congressman from our great State. Harry.

STATEMENT OF HON. HARRY M. REID, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF NEVADA

Mr. REID. Thank you very much, Senator Hecht.

I am happy to be able to testify regarding S. 2506 to create a Great Basin National Park in White Pine County, NV. I too would extend, as you have and as has my colleague in the House, Congresswoman Vucanovich, our appreciation for those people from Nevada who have come all this distance to testify.

I want to acknowledge also how much I appreciate you and Senator Laxalt lending your support to creation of a park in the State of Nevada.

Title II of H.R. 4642, which I introduced, would establish a park of 174,000 acres. In the park of course would be a game preserve. The House of Representatives approved this on April 30 of this year.

The Great Basin region is an area located between the rugged Wasatch Mountains and the majestic Sierra Nevada mountain range. It is important to note that the 200,000-square-mile region, which includes most of Nevada, half of Utah, and portions of Oregon, Idaho, and California is not represented in the National Park System.

A brief description of the area proposed for national park status under H.R. 4642 is warranted, although it will not do justice to the spectacular area located in eastern Nevada.

The Snake Range is one of Nevada's most spectacular mountain ranges exhibiting many unique characteristics. Its diverse terrain include the 13,013-foot summit of Wheeler Peak, the highest mountain lying solely in Nevada; forests of aspen; the world's largest mountain mahogany; and ancient bristlecone pine. In fact it was on Wheeler Peak that the world's oldest living thing, a 5,000-year-old bristlecone pine, was cut down experimentally. Lehman Caves National Monument, one of the largest limestone solution caves in the West, is located within the Snake division and, aside from the spectacular geology, the South Snake Range is known for its diversity of life, including herds of bighorn sheep and mule deer.

Adequate studies have been undertaken to determine that this area does have the necessary qualifications for national park status. In 1959 an Interior Department survey team reported:

> The area studies in the Snake Range contains scenic and scientific resources of national significance suitable for national park purposes. The advisory board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments having considered the scientific values the study area in the Snake Range on April 22, 1959, found the area representative of the numerous Great Basin mountain ranges and adjudged it of national significance, suitable for preservation under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service.

Further, President Johnson in a message on "Natural Beauty of Our Country" sent to Congress on February 8, 1965, specifically asking for establishing of the Great Basin National Park as one of 12 new such areas for the United States. In 1973, the Park Service initiated a study for inventory and list by priority natural features in the Great Basin with potential for nomination to the National Registry of Natural Landmarks. The study was also to recommend an area that could be added to the National Park System as the Great Basin National Park.

In 1975 the completed study suggested four potential areas, including the Snake Range, which were transmitted to Congress in 1977. In 1979 a further study of the region was submitted to the Congress which indicated that the South Snake Range was the most representative of the areas studied. Just last November, National Park Service officials commented that "the 174,000-acre area is eminently qualified as a national park."

More than 60 years ago Senator Key Pittman introduced a bill to create an 8,000-acre Lehman Caves-Wheeler Peak National Park. In 1961 Senators Bible and Cannon saw the passage of a bill by the U.S. Senate calling for a 124,500-acre Great Basin National Park. The 1965 session of the Nevada Legislature unanimously passed a resolution "Requesting the Congress of the United States to adopt, and memorialize the Nevada Congressional Delegation to secure passage legislation to establish a Great Basin National Park in eastern Nevada."

In addition to preserving the physical attributes of the landscape, there would be economic advantages to establishing the Great Basin National Park. Such a park would help boost and diversify the economy of White Pine County and the rest of the State of Nevada. Initially more than $1 million would be appropriated to pay for construction of a visitor's center and other park developments. It is estimated that the park would serve 500,000 visitors annually. In terms of dollars, the economic return could exceed $10 million even in the first year.

There is strong support back home for establishing Nevada's first national park. The Governor of Nevada, Richard Bryan, the Nevada Legislature's Committee on Public Lands, and the White Pine Chamber of Commerce endorsed the Great Basin National Park.

A recent statewide telephone survey of 2,000 randomly selected Nevadans from every county and virtually every community in the State indicates that 84 percent favor the establishment of the Great Basin National Park.

There is still another advantage to the establishment of the Great Basin National Park, Mr. Chairman: Image-building for the State of Nevada. As a consistent opponent of nuclear waste transport and storage in Nevada, I am a firm believer that this park would confirm to those outside Nevada that we have a magnificent State; that Nevada has beautiful places we Nevadans are anxious to preserve, protect, and enjoy. Nevada is the only Western State without a national park or a portion of a park within its borders.

There is general agreement on the need to grant the South Snake Range special status. I do not believe, however, Mr. Chairman, I respectfully say to you, and I say this respectfully to you, that a 44,000-acre park at Wheeler Peak is sufficient, and I will explain why.

In establishing a national park, painstaking and thorough studies have been conducted. With respect to the proposed Great Basin National Park, 25 themes or characteristics of the Great Basin region were outlined by the National Park Service. These themes are set forth under larger headings which include land formation, geologic history, terrestrial ecosystems, and cultural themes.

The proposed 174,000-acre Great Basin National Park and Preserve definitely contains 19 of the 25 themes necessary for the National Park System. The proposed Great Basin National Park which we are considering today contains 15 of the themes necessary for the national park status. It should be noted, however, that several of the themes crucial to determining the boundary of the proposed Great Basin National Park are not included in S. 2506.

If we are going to create a national park, we should do it right to protect the special features of the area and to avoid possible future expansion. There is no point in creating a national park if the unique features of the area are not included within the park's boundaries.

Second, it makes sense to transfer the entire unit currently under the management of the U.S. Forest Service to the National Park Service.

Under my bill—and this would be certainly from an economic standpoint important—under my bill, the 174,000-acre administered by the U.S. Forest Service is transferred to the National Park Service. Currently, Lehman Caves National Monument is administered by the National Park Service. Officials agree that there should be no major surprises should the area be transferred to the National Park Service. Both bills were drafted with the needs of local residents in mind.

Under both proposals, condemnation of private land is prohibited. Under both proposals valid, existing mining claims, mineral leasing, and geothermal rights are protected. Many point out that the Southern Snake Range contains deposits of beryllium. Beryllium is used in nuclear reactors, for aerospace applications, and in the electronics industry. It is important to note that one company in Utah mines bertrandite and converted both bertrandite and domestic beryl to beryllium hydroxide. The other company in the industry with plants in Indiana and Pennsylvania both imported beryl and produced beryllium alloys.

A domestic company which produced beryllium alloys announced its intention last year to sell its beryllium business. The sale would include the Indiana plant. The only domestic beryllium concentrate producer reportedly plans to construct a plant in Japan or elsewhere to manufacture beryllium-copper alloys.

Mr. Chairman, it is important to note that the identified resources of beryllium in known deposits are estimated in excess of 80,000 tons of contained beryllium. U.S. consumption of beryllium is estimated at only 310 tons annually. With the demand for beryllium expected to increase at an annual rate of 4 percent through 1990, these statistics indicate that we have enough beryllium using present deposits to last 200 years.

There are seven grazing allotments on the entire Snake Division. Under both bills, grazing would continue at historic levels permitted before July 1, 1985. Under my proposal, however, a 45,000-acre national park preserve is established in the southern portion of the Snake Range to allow hunting to continue.

White Pine County contains 8,902 square miles of area, or 5,697,000 acres. The proposed 174,000-acre Great Basin National Park and Preserve would constitute a little more than 3 percent of this county, and 0.24 percent of the entire acreage of the State. Although the park preserve I am proposing is substantial, it certainly does not represent a vast portion of the State.

The need for this park is greater now than it has ever been. In a State where the population has doubled even in the last 10 years, we can no longer assume that these lands will remain beautiful and unspoiled. We must ensure their preservation.

Mr. Chairman, I again want to thank you and thank Senator Laxalt for the opportunity to testify here today, and especially for your introducing the companion legislation.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

I thank the two distinguished Congressmen for coming over today and testifying. Thank you very much.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Thank you, Senator.

Senator HECHT. Will the Honorable Secretary Donald Paul Hodel, Department of the Interior, please come forward.

Mr. Secretary, before you start may I make a couple of comments? We are very fortunate to have a Secretary like yourself who always has time on any need for our State of Nevada. We have many people from the State that have come a long ways, and I want them to know how fortunate we are to have a westerner like yourself.

You and your entire staff, while we might not always agree on every matter, always have time and take tremendous amounts of time on our most minute problems, and I thank you publicly. Everyone in our State who has had any occasion to deal with you fully understands that.

Now you may begin your testimony.

STATEMENT OF HON. DONALD PAUL HODEL, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

Secretary HODEL. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Let me say that it is a rare privilege for me to serve in this job and have the opportunity to deal with issues that affect Western States, and particularly Nevada. I have had numerous opportunities to be there, and I can say truthfully that I love your State, and I have enjoyed my association with you and Senator Laxalt and the people I have met from Nevada, and I thank you for your kind remarks.

Senator HECHT. Well, you and your wife will have to come out and spend more time with us.

Secretary HODEL. I would love to do that.

Mr. Chairman, I have a statement for the record, which I would like to summarize.

Senator HECHT. It will be included in the record.

Secretary HODEL. I also have with me, in the event you have any detailed questions which go beyond my level of knowledge on this bill, Mr. Denis Galvin, Deputy Director of the National Park Service, who will be testifying before you on the other matters before the committee today.

Let me just say in summary that we support the enactment of S. 2506. I want to commend you and Senator Laxalt for preparing what we believe is a very balanced proposal. The boundary has obviously been drawn carefully to include the special resources that are essential to a national park, while at the same time excluding some of those areas which would have created a very serious problem for us along the lines of what we had last year when we testified in opposition to the bill that was before the House.

As you said very well, Senator, the bill that was before the House and was passed by the House creates land-use conflict problems for us and land acquisition problems. We have a serious problem in handling the availability of funds to acquire land, and I think that we ought not to saddle a new park with a proposal which would be difficult for us to complement.

I think the proposal which you have made eliminates or avoids those problems. One of the prior witnesses said that if we create a national park in this area we ought to do it right. I believe that your bill does do it right, and that is why we are prepared to support that bill.

I will not recap the contents of the bill, as my statement does, but let me say that it is important to recognize that the Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture have exercised a stewardship responsibility in this area which has preserved and protected the area to the point where today we are in a position to talk about it being included in the National Park System. I think it would be appropriate to commend them for the job they have done.

We see three issues that we draw to your attention, Mr. Chairman.

The first is the authorization for further development. The second is the authorization for land acquisition. The third is the issue of grazing.

I mention that this park contains limited visitor facilities. We have no present plans or can identify any need for expansion at the present time. We would do, pursuant to the bill, a general management plan with public involvement that hopefully would guide us about future management of the park.

I think it is fair to say that at the present time we feel it is unlikely that the National Park Service would be in a position to fund additional facilities for the foreseeable future. I think that the support for this park which is there and is strong should be founded on the propriety and suitability of this area as a park, and not on the basis of unredeemable promises and projections about vast increases in tourism and facilities that would automatically follow a park.

With regard to land acquisition, it is my understanding that there is no private lands to be acquired. But, as Congresswoman Vucanovich correctly pointed out, we do have some mining claims which have to be determined as to their validity within the area, perhaps as many as 150.

I am also aware that there is significant potential mining in areas adjacent to the park, and we need to be sensitive to the fact that there have been occasions where great effort has been made to shut down mining activities adjacent to parks or other activities adjacent to parks. We need to be conscious of what the intention of the Congress is when a park such as this is created, that adjacent activities are or are not to be continued.

I think it is not practical to expect that we would effectively be in a position to acquiesce in mining within the boundaries of a national park. Sometimes it is suggested that we could permit a mining activity to continue, but I can say from hard experience that once we have drawn the boundary of the national park, we are enormously resistant to continued activity such as mining within those boundaries.

The final issue, Mr. Chairman, is with regard to grazing. We may find it very difficult to work out an exchange of allotments because the Forest Service has advised us that the allotments in the Humboldt National Forest which might be available are, as you have indicated, already used and therefore it would be only on the availability of such allotments outside that we could enter into some kind of exchange.

I would like to be able to work with Secretary Lyng and the Forest Service and try to come up with possible suggestions for inclusions in the statute with regard to grazing. I think it is important. The statute currently provides that grazing will be continued at the 1985 level. I think it is important that we be sure that what that statute means is clear and that it is not intended that the Secretary abbreviate or truncate that grazing opportunity in any way that is not consistent with the grazing rules applied in areas outside the park, if that is the intention of the Congress.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I would be happy to try to respond to any questions.

[The prepared statement of Secretary Hodel follows:]

STATEMENT OF DONALD PAUL HODEL, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, RESERVED WATER, AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONCERNING S. 2506, A BILL TO ESTABLISH A GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK IN THE STATE OF NEVADA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

JULY 18, 1986

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I am pleased to be here today to discuss S. 2506, to establish the Great Basin National Park in the State of Nevada.

I am pleased to support the enactment of S. 2506.

I would like to personally commend the two Senators from Nevada for preparing a balanced proposal, one that provides for protection of the natural resources that make up the Great Basin region while at the same time is sensitive to the needs of the people who have traditionally used the area. Your proposed boundary has been carefully drawn to include spectacular resources while excluding patented mining claims and the wintering range of the mule deer. This should help reduce the cost of this national park, and makes it acceptable to this Administration, unlike other proposals put forward which we could not support.

For example, the House-passed proposal, part of the Nevada Wilderness bill, encompassed a much larger area, one with problems in both transfer and management. The resource use conflicts and private land acquisition resulting from such wholesale park authorizations have, in other areas, contributed to unending disputes over management and availability of funding to acquire land. We wish to avoid saddling any new park with such a burden. This proposal before us today avoids those problems for this area.

S. 2506 would authorize the transfer of approximately 44,000 acres of land located in the South Snake Range Unit of the Humboldt National Forest to the National Park Service and would establish the Great Basin National Park. Grazing would continue subject to such terms and conditions deemed necessary for good range management. Grazing permittees would be able to request the Secretary of Agriculture to negotiate an exchange of their grazing allotment out of the park. The bill includes a disclaimer with respect to the establishment of U.S. water rights, and it requires that any land be acquired only with the consent of the owner.

Mr. Chairman, there are many outstanding resources in the Great Basin physiographic region which covers so much of Nevada. Central to this proposal are the very special resources around the Wheeler Peak area, especially the bristlecone pine growing at the timberline. The bristlecone pine is believed to be the oldest living species of tree, older than the Giant Sequoia and the Redwood. The unusually high elevation of the Snake Range, another significant aspect of this area, makes it one of the few Great Basin ranges that experienced glaciation during the most recent Ice Age that ended some 8,000 to 10,000 years ago. A remnant ice field exists near Wheeler Peak from what was one of the largest glaciers in the Great Basin, unique not only to the Snake Range but also the region as a whole.

It is fitting that these resources should be included within the Great Basin National Park boundaries, as proposed by S. 2506, in order to provide for their protection, interpretation, and public enjoyment. Let me say at this point, Mr. Chairman, that had it not been for the stewardship of the professionals of the U.S. Forest Service and the people of Nevada, the integrity of these resources could have been compromised. Their respect for these unique features should be commended, and their investment in the conservation of this resource has enabled us to be here today to recommend the creation of this, America's newest national park. The beauty of these magnificent resources has been truly a source of pride for the people of Nevada, and it will now be shared with the Nation.

Further, I would note that this park, upon enactment of S. 2506, could begin operation immediately. Existing funding, personnel, and facilities at Lehman Caves National Monument are already located within the proposed park boundary, and can form the nucleus of services for the new park. Immediately available to the park visitors, therefore, would be an existing visitor center and office building complex, a small gift shop and coffee shop, a cave trail, a 30-site picnic area, restroom facilities, and a water system. Further, as a result of the transfer of land from the Forest Service, there would also be available to visitors two primitive campgrounds, a trailer campground with 11 developed sites, three other campgrounds with a total of 81 developed sites, and restroom facilities. With this infrastructure in place, plus the fact that the area proposed by S. 2506 is already Federally-managed, we believe that the new national park can be established without significant increased cost to the taxpayer.

There are three other issues, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, that I would also like to address: First, the authorization for further development; second, the authorization for land acquisition; and third, the issue of grazing.

As I mentioned, this park already contains limited visitor facilities. Uses in the area of the new park should, therefore, remain essentially the same as now. We would nevertheless propose to prepare a general management plan, which includes public involvement, to help guide the future management of this national park and to identify any desired or needed future facilities. The close working relationship between the staff of this new national park and the adjacent communities will certainly be vital to a successful operation. It is important to me that we be candid in advising you, the Congress, and the communities, however, that it is unlikely that the National Park Service will be in a position to fund additional facilities for the foreseeable future. Support for this new park should be founded on the propriety and suitability of this area as a park and not on the basis of unredeemable promises of increased tourism and facilities.

With regard to land acquisition, it is my understanding that there is no private ownership of the surface estate inside of the proposed boundary. There may be valid mining claims, however, which constitute an interest in land. I believe we should proceed with the development of a land protection plan that will identify all valid interests in these lands. The land protection planning process, of course, will also involve the public. We will seek a consensus regarding the appropriate level of protection, and what, if any, interests in lands must be acquired.

With regard to the issue of grazing, Mr. Chairman, I understand there are a total of seven different grazing allotments within the entire 174,000-acre South Snake Range Unit of the Humboldt National Forest. Within all seven allotments, there are six cattle permits totalling 571 head of cattle, or 2,583 animal unit months (AUM's), and there are two sheep permits totalling 2,437 sheep, or 1,843 AUM's. Portions of six of these allotments are within the 44,000-acre proposed park boundary.

Mr. Chairman, the bill's approach to the grazing issue appears to be fair and equitable, but it may not be easy to work out. I have been informed by the Forest Service that negotiating exchanges for allotments now in the proposed park may not be practical since all allotments within the Humboldt National Forest are currently under permit. Therefore, I would like to work with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Committee to develop some alternative measures by which the grazing issue can be resolved in the statute. In any case, Mr. Chairman, I believe that statutory provision for continued grazing should be considered, and that continued grazing should not preclude designation of this area as a national park.

That concludes my prepared statement, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today to support the establishment of our 49th national park. I would be happy to respond to any questions that you or other Members of the Committee may have.

Senator HECHT. I have some questions, but first we have a colleague who has joined us.

Senator Rockefeller, do you have a statement?

Senator ROCKEFELLER. No, Mr. Chairman, I am just pleased to be here with you and with the Secretary.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Mr. Secretary, if the Congress were to pass the House version of the national park, or something very close to it in size, would you feel compelled to recommend to the President that he approve it, or veto it?

Secretary HODEL. Mr. Chairman, if the bill were essentially comparable to what is now the House bill, if it were not altered in significant ways, my leaning would be to recommend to the President that he veto that bill.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

I have no further questions. Do you have any questions, Senator?

Senator ROCKEFELLER. No.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much, and thank your wife for being with us today.

The Honorable George Dunlop and Mr. Denis Galvin.

The Honorable George S. Dunlop, Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment.

Mr. Dunlop, we understand that your statement was revised at the last minute, and that you were unable to provide the subcommittee with your testimony 24 hours in advance of this hearing.

We hope that you will be able to furnish your testimony on time in the future.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE S. DUNLOP, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT, FOREST SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. DUNLOP. Yes, sir. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Like the other witnesses, I am delighted to appear before the subcommittee today. I am something of a new kid on the block. This is the first opportunity I have had to testify before this committee in my new capacity as Assistant Secretary, and it is an honor for me to do so before you.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Agriculture does not oppose S. 2506 as it is currently proposed. However we do have a number of reservations about the bill, many of which were addressed by the previous witnesses. I must say at the outset that we would strongly oppose any legislation that would establish a national park that is significantly greater in size such as is contained in other legislation that is being considered by Congress.

As you know and as has been discussed the bill before us today, S. 2506, would designate 44,000 acres as a national park. This would be the blue portion of this map that we brought along with us. The green is the entire area under consideration and is the entire area managed by the National Forest Service.

In this bill, jurisdiction of the area would be transferred from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Interior. As has been discussed, the area proposed as a park is a portion of what we call the South Snake Range Division of the Humboldt National Forest.

Within this parcel of approximately 174,000 acres, which is the green part, is the 29,000-acre Wheeler Peak scenic area which was designated as a scenic area by the U.S. Forest Service in 1959. That is the area that is in the dotted black lines. [Indicating.]

The 13,060-foot Wheeler Peak is the highest mountain located solely within the State of Nevada. As has been discussed, it is an area of high scenic, botanic, and geologic interest. In addition to those things, there are several high elevation lakes, ancient bristlecone pine forests, and other key attractions including the Lehman Caves National Monument which is adjacent to the Wheeler area near the top of the map where is now being indicated. [Indicating.]

This Lehman Caves National Monument is presently administered by the National Park Service. The Forest Service manages four campgrounds within the proposed park that contain a total of 92 units that are in the scenic area. Mr. Chairman, these campgrounds average about 35 percent occupancy during the summer season at the present time.

Our reservations about the bill, S. 2506, stem from our longstanding commitment to the concept of balanced multiple use of our natural resources. There is no doubt that the area encompassed by S. 2506 has many outstanding scenic and natural features, and there is no question that these features should be managed to protect and enhance those values. It is simply our earnest opinion that the current management under the Forest Service provides for such protection.

Our concern is that passage of S. 2506 could reduce or foreclose management of the area for a number of other multiple uses currently being carried out in ways that do not detract from protecting and enhancing the natural and scenic value of the area. Examples, and they have been mentioned by previous witnesses, are hunting, livestock grazing, fuel-wood gathering, and similar activities.

I might say that we are also concerned that when an area is designated as a national park, as Secretary Hodel indicated, there does develop from many quarters sentiment to increase the size of the park, or to place other use restrictions on adjacent land. We would strongly oppose any such expansion.

With regard to the park proposal, I should say that we feel there are other management options which would be available which would protect the scenic values of the area and allow increased recreational use and retain the existing multiple use opportunities that I have identified. An example would be the designation of the area as a national recreation area administered by the Forest Service.

This could provide for national recognition and visibility to the scenic and recreational attributes of the area without the limitations on multiple use that would be associated with park status. For example, hunting would be permitted in a national recreation area. Grazing and mineral activities could be permitted if such specific activities were consistent with and did not detract from the primary purposes for which the recreation area was established.

I should probably indicate, Mr. Chairman, that the current use for hunting amounts to approximately 1,600 recreation-visitor-days annually within the area provided for by this bill. There are approximately 125 mining claims within the proposal. Hunting and mineral development would not be allowed in a park, proposal as was mentioned by Secretary Hodel.

Perhaps of most immediate concern to the folks that are living and working out there now is that there are 1065 animal-use-months of livestock grazing within the proposed park area. The bill allows grazing to continue subject to certain limitations and conditions or regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior.

As currently written the bill provides that the Secretary of Agriculture would negotiate an exchange with holders of valid existing grazing permits on land within the proposed park for an equal number of animal-unit-months on land elsewhere within the Humboldt National Forest.

Mr. Chairman, very frankly this provision that is in the bill is not practical, simply because grazing capacity on the South Snake Division is completely and fully obligated. There is little opportunity for range improvement that could increase the livestock carrying capacity outside of the proposed boundaries.

So for this reason it is our very earnest recommendation that the issue of grazing allotments be specifically provided for in the statute, and we hope that the committee could do that. We would be very pleased to work with you to help bring that about.

I should say in summary, Mr. Chairman, that although the Department of Agriculture does not oppose the bill, we have a number of reservations about it. The balanced and judicious use of the resources in the National Forest System is a longstanding, important concept to us. The goods and services provided to the Nation for multiple use include not only consumptive goods such as timber and range and minerals, but nonconsumptive use such as recreation.

S. 2506 is a very conscientious effort to place in parkland status those acres most suited for scenic and recreational management. While we believe that those same goals can be accomplished through the purposes of multiple use management, we understand the committee's interest in parkland status for the specific acres provided for in this legislation.

However, we strongly advise the committee that the Department of Agriculture would be opposed to the expansion of park boundaries beyond that provided in the bill. We believe that inclusion of additional acreage would mitigate adversely on the economy of the local area and greatly diminish the benefits which multiple use management brings to these lands.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Senator Rockefeller, would you like to give your statement now on S. 2384 before we hear from Mr. Galvin?

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

Senator ROCKEFELLER. I would appreciate it very much, Mr. Chairman. I know that Mr. Galvin is going to be testifying about S. 2384, but I want to express my thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing.

The matter before us now is something really of enormous importance to West Virginia, and particularly to the southern part of our State where we have many economic problems. Indeed, it is tied directly to what has become one of the most powerful industries in our State, and in fact the fastest growing industry, which is tourism and recreation.

The New River Gorge National Park is more than just one of our Nation's most exciting and beautiful white water rafter rivers, it is also an exceedingly strong tourist attraction. It has become a very important source of jobs and work for our people in a financially troubled part of the State. Over a quarter of a million tourists, and also white water rafters, visit the New River Gorge every year, generating tens of millions of dollars for the people of that area, for the local economy, and for the tax base.

With white water rafting becoming more and more popular, the Park Service itself has every expectation that those figures are going to increase. So this is a very important economic as well as esthetic undertaking.

The bill I have introduced, together with my colleague from West Virginia, Senator Byrd, would authorize the acquisition of land outside the established boundaries of the New River for the construction of an administrative headquarters, a visitor's center, and a maintenance facility.

Presently, Mr. Chairman, the administrative headquarters of the New River are temporarily located in some rented buildings in Oak Hill, WV.

To consolidate and improve operations of this popular area, the National Park Service selected a 10-acre site for the new headquarters in the historic coal town of Glen Jean. The selected site is a good choice, and it is a good choice for four reasons:

One, it is very close to the major north-south highway that parallels the river. Second, it is near the geographic midpoint of the river itself, which incidentally is the second oldest river in the world. Only the Nile is an older river than the New River. Third, by detaching the headquarters from the park itself, the natural resources of the park are going to be protected. There is not going to be an invasion of maintenance buildings and service buildings within the beautiful area itself. And fourth and importantly, the site is accessible to city water and sewer services.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I was at this 10-acre site in Glen Jean about 2 weeks ago and I was very impressed by what I saw. The Park Service's proposal will not only consolidate, but will also vastly improve their operation. Instead of constructing new facilities, the Park Service plans to revamp existing structures whenever possible. I think that is sensible, and it also fits right into the historic nature of the area. There are some very beautiful older buildings there that can be used.

Their plans will therefore preserve the historic integrity of Glen Jean, which is an old and distinguished coal town, making the area even more attractive for visitors. While the Glen Jean site is easily accessible from the major highway that runs parallel to the river, the site is outside the river's authorized boundary. Therefore, this legislation makes it clear that the funds appropriated for land acquisition within the national river may be used to acquire property for the administrative headquarters site at Glen Jean.

The present Park Service headquarters is simply not adequate to meet the current tourist demand. The new headquarters, the maintenance center, and the visitors center in Glen Jean, WV, will ensure that information and services for park visitors will be located in a centrally located, attractive, and accessible place.

It will ensure effective administration and management of a very popular area, and it is going to be a very good boost for the economy of the area.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to see this distinguished committee proceed to the markup of what I assume is a very noncontroversial measure—that is, S. 2384. The funding for it is already appropriated. That is not something we have to worry about. The Park Service is here today and is going to testify, I understand, in support of the bill and will suggest an amendment which will be fine with me.

I must say, I appreciate the Park Service's support on this. They have been terrific, and I welcome the opportunity to work with them now and at any time.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Senator Rockefeller follows:]

July 18, 1986

Mr. Chairman:

I want to express my thanks to you for granting my request to hold this hearing. The matter before us today is of great importance to my state, particularly to my constituents in southern West Virginia.

Indeed, it is tied directly to what has become in recent years my state's fastest-growing industry: tourism and recreation.

The New River Gorge National River is more than just one of our Nation's most exciting rivers for whitewater rafters and an exceedingly picturesque tourist attraction. It has become an important source of jobs and economic activity for a financially-troubled area of our state. Over a quarter of a million tourists and white water rafters visit the New River Gorge every year, generating tens of millions of dollars for the local economy. And with white water rafting becoming more and more popular, the Park Service has every expectation that those figures will increase.

The bill that I have introduced, with Minority Leader Byrd, would authorize the acquisition of land outside the established boundaries of the New River for construction of an administrative headquarters, visitors' center, and maintenance facility.

Presently, the administrative headquarters for the New River are temporarily located in three rented buildings in Oak Hill. To consolidate and improve operations of this popular area, the National Park Service selected a ten-acre site for the new headquarters in the historic coal town of Glen Jean. The selected site is a good choice for several reasons: (1) it's very close to the major north south highway that parallels the River; (2) it's near the geographic midpoint of the New River (3) by detaching the headquarters from the Park itself, the natural resources of the Park will be protected from development; and (4) the site is accessible to the city water and sewer services.

I had the opportunity to visit the Glen Jean site a couple of weeks ago and was deeply impressed by what I saw. The Park Service's proposal will consolidate and vastly improve their operation. Instead of constructing new facilities, the Park Service -- wherever possible -- is revamping existing structures. Their plans will preserve the historic integrity of Glen Jean, making the area even more attractive for visitors.

While the Glen Jean site is easily accessible from a major highway that run parallel to the River, the site is outside the River's authorized boundary. This legislation makes it clear that funds appropriated for land acquisition within the National

River may be used to acquire property for the administrative headquarters site at Glen Jean.

The present Park Service headquarters is simply not adequate to meet the current tourist demand. The new headquarters, maintenance center, and visitor's center in Glen Jean will ensure that information and services for park visitors will be located in a centrally located, accessible place. It will ensure effective administration and management of this popular area -- and provide an enormous boost to the local economy.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to see this distinguished committee proceed to markup of this noncontroversial measure, S. 2384, as soon as possible. I understand that the Park Service will testify today in support of this bill and will suggest an amendment. I appreciate the Park Service's support and I welcome the opportunity to work with the Park Service and this committee to achieve expeditious passage of S. 2384.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator HECHT. Thank you, very much.

Mr. Denis Galvin, Deputy Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

STATEMENT OF DENIS P. GALVIN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. GALVIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I have nothing to add to the Secretary's testimony on S. 2506. I do have a prepared statement on the other two bills, S. 2534 and S. 2384.

Senator HECHT. It will be a part of the record.

Mr. GALVIN. Thank you, sir. I will just summarize——

Senator HECHT. Excuse me 1 second. Counsel asks that you please give your testimony on S. 2384.

Mr. GALVIN. S. 2384?

Senator HECHT. Yes.

Mr. GALVIN. S. 2384 is the bill to establish an administrative site for New River Gorge National River. S. 2384 would amend the 1978 act by specifically authorizing the acquisition of not-to-exceed 10 acres outside the boundaries of the national river for an administrative headquarters site.

We recommend the enactment of the bill, if amended as suggested herein.

New River Gorge was established by title XI of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978. The boundary of the area includes approximately 62,000 acres—4,000 acres of which is in Federal ownership, and 17,074 in State and local public ownership.

The character of the New River is rugged topography typical of a deep-river gorge. In 1985, there were 263,000 recreation visits to the New River, a 14-percent increase over visitation in 1984. The general management plan for the New River, which was transmitted to the committees of Congress in 1983, indicated that a headquarters site should be located in or near Oak Hill, WV.

In subsequent planning, a site of about 10 acres in the town of Glen Jean 4 miles south of Oak Hill has been selected as the most appropriate location. As Senator Rockefeller pointed out, this site has a number of advantages. It is accessible to city water and sewer. It provides safe and convenient access to U.S. Highway 19, the major north-south highway, and it keeps development out of the gorge itself.

Development of the site, including landscaping, construction of the headquarters and maintenance facility, parking and restoration and rehabilitation of two historic structures within the site—the Glen Jean Bank and the Taylor House—is estimated to cost approximately $2.8 million. Section 1112 of the authorizing legislation limited appropriations for development of the area to $500,000. Of that amount, $200,000 has already been appropriated for construction of facilities. Accordingly, $300,000 remains authorized to be appropriated.

We recommend that the appropriation limitation on development in the 1978 authorizing legislation be amended by increasing the existing limitation of $500,000 to an amount necessary to complete the Glen Jean site, or a new ceiling of $3 million.

The estimated cost of acquiring the approximately 8-acre administrative site is $603,000. The fiscal year 1986 continuing resolution already appropriated $300,000 from the land and water conservation fund. The language of S. 2384 would make clear that the funds already appropriated could be used for the purposes of acquisition at Glen Jean.

By locating the principal administrative headquarters site outside the boundary at Glen Jean, not only will the development be located away from sensitive natural resources, but information on services for visitors will be located at the major point of both road and river access to the site.

Congress has previously authorized detached administrative sites at such Park System areas as Assateague Island, Big Horn Canyon, and Cumberland Island. The detached administrative site proposed in S. 2384 will benefit the visitor and help protect the natural resources of the New River Gorge.

We recommend that the bill be enacted, amended as suggested above.

This concludes my prepared testimony, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to respond to any questions you or the committee may have.

Senator HECHT. Thank you for putting that in the record.

Senator Rockefeller?

Senator ROCKEFELLER. I have no questions, Mr. Chairman, but I noticed that when I was mentioning the age of the New River that there was some disbelief in the audience behind you. I want to reiterate that point. It is a fact not known, and this New River Gorge effort is an important one.

The New River is in fact, other than the Nile in Egypt, the second-oldest river on this planet. That is a fact not known to most people. It is a fact not known to some people in West Virginia. The New River has extraordinary historic value and I think that this way of disposing of maintenance and administration, Mr. Chairman, protects the value and the beauty of that gorge.

It is not a typical river. It is very unusual and very old. I am pleased by your support.

Senator HECHT. Is there anything further, Senator?

Senator ROCKEFELLER. No.

Senator HECHT. Thank you both. Mr. Galvin, you have some more testimony.

Mr. GALVIN. Mr. Chairman, I have testimony on S. 2534, the establishment of a mainland tour boat facility for Fort Sumter National Monument. I have a prepared statement and will submit it for the record.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Mr. GALVIN. I will merely summarize the testimony.

S. 2534 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire not to exceed 8.91 acres to provide needed facilities for visitors to Fort Sumter National Monument. The bill authorizes the Secretary to convey a leasehold interest and not to exceed 1.5 of those acres to the State of South Carolina or the city for the development of a marine museum.

It authorizes the Secretary to grant covenants or easements for ingress/egress and vehicular parking, and it authorizes the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements for the sharing of construction, maintenance, and use of buildings and facilities among the parties to the agreements.

The bill also repeals section 117 of Public Law 96-199, which authorized the acquisition and development of a tour boat facility at a different location.

Finally, it makes available funds heretofore appropriated for the acquisition and development of a facility at the new site referred to in this bill.

We strongly recommend the enactment of S. 2534 if it is amended as suggested herein. For the past 10 years the National Park Service has attempted to locate a suitable mainland docking facility in Charleston so that visitors can get to Fort Sumter.

More than 150,000 people take the tour boat to Fort Sumter each year. The present tour boat facility on the Ashley River at the Charleston City Marina can quickly become crowded. There are no restrooms on tour boat facilities at the marina. There is virtually no possibility of enlarging or upgrading the site.

Several potential tour boat docking sites have been studied in the past 10 years. In 1978 Congress appropriated $5,581,000 for construction of a tour boat facility adjacent to Charleston's Broad Street. In 1982 Congress appropriated $368,000 for purchase of the Fleet Landing site.

In May 1985 the concessioner who runs the tour boats to Fort Sumter requested National Park Service consideration of the 9-acre site immediately north of the dockside condominiums. In June the city requested us to consider this dockside north site as a possible location for tour boats and a marine science museum. The city is extremely interested in locating the aquarium near the water.

In January 1986 the concessioner purchased the site consisting of high and submerged lands of approximately 9 acres. This land is referred to as the Dockside II site, and it is the site proposed for acquisition under this bill.

It will be used for a new embarkation site to Fort Sumter, for a marine science museum to be built by the city of Charleston, for a National Park Service operations area, and associated developments, principally parking. All of the property may not need to be acquired in fee to provide these facilities, but easements on the remainder should be acquired to protect against adverse development.

As part of the conceptual plan the city proposes to locate a marine science museum on the site. This land to be acquired by the National Park Service would be leased to the city. In return, the city would assume certain operational responsibilities. The Service may also wish to consider selling certain interests in land to the city. This would also be authorized under the bill.

We estimate the cost of developing the tour boat facility itself to be about $3.3 million. We have not yet completed an appraisal of the property but are confident that it can be acquired with the funds already appropriated by the Congress.

All of the unexpended funds that have already been appropriated, or approximately $5.468 million, would be available for the combined purpose of acquisition and development under the provisions of the bill.

We recommend two amendments, Mr. Chairman. Those are explained in my prepared testimony. Their effect would be to allow us to share the use of parking facilities under a cooperative agreement, rather than interests in land, and to authorize exchange of a site with the Coast Guard that enhances the operation of Fort Moultrie which is part of Fort Sumter, a national historic site.

Both transfers of jurisdiction are recommended by field offices of the National Park Service and the Coast Guard. The amendment would not result in the need for any additional appropriations.

That concludes my prepared statement on S. 2534, Mr. Chairman. I would be happy to answer your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Galvin follows:]

STATEMENT OF DENIS P. GALVIN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, RESERVED WATER AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION, SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING S. 2534, TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF A MAINLAND TOURBOAT FACILITY FOR THE FORT SUMTER NATIONAL MONUMENT, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND S. 2384, TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW 95-625 TO PERMIT THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN LANDS FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE SITE FOR THE NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER, WEST VIRGINIA.

JULY 18, 1986

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to provide your Subcommittee with the views of the Department of the Interior on S. 2534 and S. 2384.

S. 2534 - Tourboat Facility for the Fort Sumter National Monument, South Carolina.

S. 2534 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire not to exceed 8.91 acres to provide needed facilities for visitors to Fort Sumter National Monument, including a tourboat dock and associated facilities, and an interpretive and museum facility in cooperation with the State of South Carolina and the City of Charleston. The bill authorizes the Secretary to convey a leasehold interest in not to exceed one and one-half acres to the State of South Carolina or the City for development of a marine museum and associated facilities; it authorizes the Secretary to grant covenants or easements for ingress, egress, and vehicular parking, and it authorizes the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements for the sharing of construction, maintenance, and use of buildings and facilities among the parties to the agreements. The bill also repeals section 117 of Public Law 96-199, which authorized the acquisition and development of a mainland tourboat facility at a different location, and it makes available funds heretofore appropriated for the acquisition and development of a facility at the new site referred to in this bill.

We strongly recommend the enactment S. 2534, if it is amended as suggested herein.

For the past decade, the National Park Service has attempted to locate a docking facility in Charleston for a concessioner-operated tour boat carrying visitors to Fort Sumter in the mouth of Charleston Harbor.

More than 150,000 people take the tour boat to Fort Sumter each year. The present tour boat facility at the Charleston City Marina on the Ashley River can quickly become crowded with vehicles. There are no rest rooms on tour boat facilities at the marina. There is virtually no possibility of enlarging or upgrading tour boat accommodations at this location.

Several potential tour boat docking sites have been studied in the past 10 years. These include: National Park Service property adjacent to Charleston's Broad Street; the Fleet Landing site adjacent to Charleston's Concord Street; a site immediately south of the dockside condominiums on the Cooper River which was to be acquired and developed by the concessioner; the National Park Service dock behind Fort Moultrie on Sullivans Island; Patriots Point in Mt. Pleasant; the existing Charleston City Marina; the Cruiseship Terminal on Concord Street just north of the Fleet Landing building; and most recently a 9-acre site immediately north of the dockside condominiums also on Concord Street. The project has experienced repeated stops and starts.

In 1978, Congress appropriated $5,581,000 (gross) for construction of a tour boat facility adjacent to Charleston's Broad Street. But before construction could begin, we were persuaded by the city of Charleston--based on a Charleston tourism study--to shift the proposed facility to the Fleet Landing site to anchor a waterfront park. Section 117 of P.L. 96-199, approved March 5, 1980, authorized acquisition and development of the Fleet Landing site. In 1982 Congress appropriated $368,000 for purchase of the Fleet Landing site from the State Ports Authority.

Early in 1982, we halted land acquisition negotiations and planning and design work on the Fleet Landing site because of concerns over parking, vehicle access, and the need for dredging at that site. An outside consultant was asked to study the access, parking and dredging issues for the Fleet Landing site and compare the findings with Broad Street and the city marina. An evaluation of the dockside south site and Patriots Point was included later.

The boat concessioner's concerns about the suitability of Fleet Landing led him to express interest in locating at Patriots Point. In an effort to solve concerns of the city and the concessioner, we proposed that tour boats operate from both Patriots Point and the city.

Late in 1984, preliminary plans were announced by the city and State Ports Authority to develop the Cruiseship Terminal on Concord Street under a festival marketplace concept, which would include the tour boat operation. We agreed to assess the potential of this location. The city wished to locate a marine science museum (aquarium) at the Fleet Landing site. Local opposition to the aquarium in this area forced the city to look elsewhere.

In May 1985, the concessioner requested National Park Service consideration of the 9-acre site immediately north of the dockside condominiums. In June, the city requested us to consider this dockside north site as a possible location for tour boats and marine science museum (aquarium). The city is extremely interested in locating the aquarium on water. In January 1986 the concessioner purchased the site consisting of high and submerged lands of approximately 9.0 acres. This is the land, which is referred to as the Dockside II site, we propose to acquire under the bill.

The property will be used for the new embarkation site, marine science museum, National Park Service operations areas, and associated developments (parking, etc.). All of the property may not need to be acquired in fee to provide these facilities, but easements on the remainder should be acquired to protect against adverse development.

As part of the conceptual plan for Dockside II, the city proposes to locate a marine science museum on the site. Part of the land acquired by the National Park Service would be leased to the city for this purpose. In return, the city would assume certain operational responsibilities. The Service also may wish to consider selling certain interests in land to the city. This would be authorized under the bill.

We estimate the cost of developing the mainland tourboat facility at the site identified in S.2534 to be about $3.3 million. While we have not yet completed an appraisal of the property, we are confident that it can be acquired with funds already appropriated. All of the unexpended funds that have already been appropriated, or approximately $5.468 million, would be available for the combined purpose of acquisition and development under the provisions of the bill.

We recommend the following amendments:

1. On page 2, line 23, delete "egress and vehicular parking", and insert "and egress". This amendment deletes authority to grant interests in land owned by the United States for vehicular parking. We believe a more appropriate way to share the use of parking facilities is under a cooperative agreement pursuant to section 2(a)(3) of the bill.

2. Add the following new section:

   Sec. _____. The Secretary of the Interior shall transfer administrative jurisdiction over the Federal property, consisting of approximately 1.0-acre, known as the Broad Street site, to the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating, who shall transfer to the Secretary of the Interior, subject to such reservations, terms, and conditions as may be necessary for Coast Guard purposes, administrative jurisdiction over the Federal property, consisting of approximately 1.0 acre located near Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island for purposes of maintenance workshops, storage, and seasonal housing in connection with the administration and protection of the Fort Sumter National Monument.

This amendment authorizes the transfer of jurisdiction over two properties: One from the National Park Service to the Coast Guard--the Broad Street site, which is no longer needed for tourboat purposes by the National Park Service; and the other from the Coast Guard to the National Park Service--a 1.0-acre site which for the past ten years has been occupied by the National Park Service under permit from the Coast Guard, for purposes of providing administrative facilities needed on Sullivan's Island. Both transfers of jurisdiction are recommended by field offices of the National Park Service and the Coast Guard. The amendment would not result in the need for additional appropriations.

S. 2384 New River Gorge National River, West Virginia, administrative site.

S. 2384 would amend the 1978 Act which established the New River Gorge National River in West Virginia by specifically authorizing the acquisition of not to exceed 10 acres outside the boundaries of the national river for an administrative headquarters site.

We recommend the enactment of the bill, if amended as suggested herein.

The New River Gorge National River was established by title XI of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978. The boundary of the area includes approximately 62,024 acres, including 56,247 acres of private land, 4,003 acres of Federal land (including 1,220 acres in less than fee ownership), and 1,774 acres in State and local public ownership. The vast majority of this land has very rugged topography typical of a deep river gorge. In 1985 there were 263,021 recreation visits to the New River Gorge, a 14% increase in visitation over that in 1984.

The General Management Plan for the National River, which was transmitted to the authorizing Committees of Congress by the Secretary of the Interior in 1983, indicated that a headquarters site should be located in or near Oak Hill, West Virginia. A site of about 10 acres in the town of Glen Jean, located 4 miles south of Oak Hill, has been selected as the most appropriate location for an administrative headquarters and visitor contact facility. The site is advantageous for access by the many rafters who visit the area, it is accessible to city water and sewer services, and it would provide safe and convenient access to U.S. Highway 19, the major north south highway that generally parallels the New River Gorge National River.

Development of the site, including landscaping, construction of the headquarters and maintenance facility, parking, and restoration and rehabilitation of two historic structures within the site--the Glen Jean Bank and the Taylor House--is estimated to cost approximately $2.8 million. Section 1112 of the authorizing legislation for the national river limited appropriations for development of the area to $500,000; and of that amount $200,000 has already been appropriated in fiscal year 1984, for construction of facilities within the boundary of the national river. Accordingly $300,000 remains authorized to be appropriated for development. In order that the full amount necessary to complete the development of the headquarters site may be available for appropriation, we recommend that the appropriation limitation on development in the 1978 authorizing legislation be amended by increasing the existing limitation of $500,000 to an amount necessary to complete the Glen Jean administrative site, or a new ceiling of $3.0 million ($2.8 million new development at Glen Jean plus the $200,000 already appropriated).

The estimated cost of acquiring the approximately 7.92-acre administrative site is $603,000. The fiscal year 1986 Continuing Resolution (P.L. 99-190) already appropriated $300,000 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for land acquisition at New River Gorge. The language of S. 2384 would make clear that the funds already appropriated for land acquisition in fiscal year

1986 could be used for purposes of acquisition of the administrative headquarters site at Glen Jean.

Mr. Chairman, by locating the principal administrative headquarters site outside the boundary at Glen Jean, not only will the development be located away from the sensitive natural resources of the New River Gorge, but information and services for visitors will be located at the major point of both road and river access to the area. The Congress has authorized the establishment of similar detached administrative sites outside boundaries of National Park System areas for Assateague Island National Seashore, Big Horn Canyon National Recreation Area, Cumberland Island National Seashore, and other units of the National Park System where major development in the resource to be protected would be difficult or inappropriate. We believe, therefore, that the detached administrative site proposed in S. 2384 will benefit the visitor and help protect the natural resources of the New River Gorge, and we recommend that the bill be enacted amended as suggested above.

This concludes my prepared testimony, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to respond to any questions you may have.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. No questions.

On S. 2534, the next witness is Hon. Joseph P. Riley, Jr., mayor, city of Charleston; Mr. George E. Campsen, Jr., president, Fort Sumter Tours.

Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr., mayor of the city of Charleston.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR., MAYOR, CITY OF CHARLESTON, SC

Mr. RILEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Senator Hecht. It is a pleasure to be before you again. I have had the opportunity of testifying before you for the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and I thank you again so much for this opportunity.

Historic Fort Sumter National Monument where the Civil War began is a historic landmark of national prominence, and the people of our city are extremely proud of its presence in our beautiful harbor. We are also extremely proud of the very high standards and the excellent mode of operations employed in Charleston by the National Park Service.

With over a decade of emphasis upon the revitalization of our existing historic area, Charleston has grown in prominence and has become one of the outstanding tourist designation places in the Southeastern United States. Visitation to Fort Sumter has steadily increased, doubling over the last 10 years.

For over two decades, public transportation to Fort Sumter has originated from our municipal marina, a publicly owned facility primarily developed and maintained for the operation of local boats. Because of the great expansion of Fort Sumter's visitation, the city marina because of its restricted size and remoteness from the historic district cannot adequately accommodate the Fort Sumter visitors who come from all over the United States.

Additionally, the present building of a local bridge and road system will take a substantial portion of the property of the marina further and substantially reduce its capacity to serve Fort Sumter. In short, we must find another site for the Fort Sumter Tour operation.

This critical need has long been recognized by the National Park Service, our community, and the Congress and our local delegation especially. In recognition of this need, in 1978 Congress appropriated $5 million for the acquisition and development of this tour boat facility.

This appropriation has not been spent because a suitable location, one that would satisfy the needs of all the interests involved, was not available. It is fortunate that Congress in its wisdom has not reprogrammed these needed funds.

In 1985, a prominent local citizen, George Campsen, Jr., present with me today, who is president of Fort Sumter Tours, Inc. made a very valuable and unique tract of land available, approximately 5 acres in size, located in the historic area of downtown Charleston on deep water. This property is within site of and 4 miles upstream from Fort Sumter. Not only is the tract ideally suited for the tour boats, but architects representing the city, the National Park Service and the present owner all agree that it can also accommodate the proposed South Carolina Marine Science Museum and a privately owned and operated restaurant.

The South Carolina Marine Science Museum will be an educationally oriented aquarium that should become a major educational and environmental resource for the citizens of this section of the United States.

The three intended uses of this site are mutually supportive and would benefit from the presence of each other.

Schoolchildren from all over the land in one field trip could visit historic Fort Sumter National Monument and the South Carolina Marine Science Museum, a very valuable and inspirational educational experience. The presence of the Marine Science Museum would be an added attraction for the fulfillment of the mission of the National Park Service.

Officials of the National Park Service from the Director to the local superintendent have inspected the site, analyzed and negotiated the concepts, and are all in agreement that the present appropriation should be amended by the bill now under consideration. Our city council, the South Carolina congressional delegation, our local citizens and news media support this effort.

None of the present appropriated funds will be used to construct the aquarium or the privately owned restaurant. The restaurant will be built upon a piece of property owned by Mr. Campsen. To ensure architectural compatibility, the restaurant design will be subject to the approval of the National Park Service.

Senator HECHT. Excuse me, Mayor. Your time is up for your entire testimony, but I will give you 30 seconds if you want to summarize.

Mr. RILEY. Thank you very much.

In conclusion, Senator, the bill also will allow the leasing of land to the Marine Science Museum. In return, the city has offered to do a number of things that are very valuable in terms of their use for the National Park Service. We think this is an excellent location and will serve the citizens of our community and the citizens of the United States very well indeed.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Riley follows:]

PRESENTATION OF THE HONORABLE JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR.
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, S. C.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC LANDS SUB-COMMITTEE
OF THE U. S. SENATE

JULY 18, 1986

Mr. Chairman and members of this Honorable Committee:

Historic Fort Sumter National Monument, where the Civil War began, is a historic landmark of national prominence, and the people of Charleston are proud of its presence in our beautiful harbor. We also are extremely proud of the high standards and excellent mode of operations employed by the National Park Service in Charleston, S. C.

With over a decade of emphasis upon revitalization of our existing historic area, Charleston has grown in prominence and has become one of the outstanding tourist destination places in the southeast United States, and visitation to historic Fort Sumter has steadily increased.

For over two decades public boat transportation to Fort Sumter has originated at the Municipal Marina, a publicly owned and operated facility, primarily maintained for the convenience of local boat owners. Because of the great expansion of Fort Sumter visitation, the City Marina, because of its restricted size and remoteness from the historic area, cannot adequately accommodate the Fort Sumter visitors, who come from all over our United States.

Additionally, the present building of a local bridge and road system will take a substantial portion of our present Marina, and further reduce its capacity to serve. In short, we must find another home base for the Fort Sumter Tours operation.

This critical need has long been recognized by the National Park Service, the City of Charleston, our South Carolina Congressional Delegation, and other local interests including the news media. Also, in recognition of this need, in 1978, the Congress of the United States appropriated approximately Five Million ($5,000,000.00) Dollars for the acquisition and development of a tour boat facility to serve Fort Sumter. This appropriation has not been spent because a suitable location, which would satisfy the needs of all interests involved, was not available. Also, it is fortunate the Congress, in its wisdom, has not re-programmed these needed funds.

In the spring of 1985, a prominent local citizen, George E. Campsen, Jr., who is also President of Fort Sumter, Tours, Inc., Concessioner for Fort Sumter National Monument, made available a very valuable and unique tract of land, approximately 5 acres in size, located in the historic area of downtown Charleston on deep water. This property is within sight of, and approximately 4 miles upstream from Fort Sumter. Not only is this tract ideally suited for the tour boats, but architects representing the City, the Park

Service, as well as the property owner, all agree that it can also accommodate the South Carolina Marine Science Museum and a privately owned and operated restaurant. The South Carolina Marine Science Museum will be an educationally oriented aquarium that should become a major educational and environmental resource for the citizens of this section of the United States.

The three intended uses at this site are mutually supportive and each would benefit from the presence of the other. School children from all over our land in one field trip, could visit historic Fort Sumter National Monument and also the S. C. Marine Science Museum, which certainly would be an inspirational educational experience. The presence of the Marine Science Museum would be an added attraction for the fulfillment of the mission of the National Park Service. Officials of the Park Service from the Director to the local Superintendent have inspected the site, analyzed and negotiated the concepts, and all are in agreement that the present appropriation should be amended, by the Bill now under consideration, to authorize the acquisition and development of this site in accordance with the Bill. The City Council of Charleston, our South Carolina Congressional Delegation, the news media and local citizens generally support this project.

None of the present appropriated funds would be used to construct the aquarium or the privately owned restaurant. The restaurant will be built on a portion of the property retained by its owner. To insure architectural compatibility, the restaurant design will be subject to approval of the National Park Service, and the land on which it sits shall be restricted by Covenants, which run with the land, to insure a high standard of operation and use which is compatible with the tour boat operation.

The Bill under consideration authorizes the Park Service to long-term lease, without monetary consideration, a small portion of Park Service property for the construction of the aquarium. Whereas such a lease may be without monetary consideration, other valuable consideration shall be granted by the City to enhance the success of the project, as follows:

1. City agrees to make approximately thirty-four (34) passenger automobile parking spaces, for "overflow" parking available across Concord Street, adjacent to the site on property owned by the City, but at no expense to the Park Service.

2. Within a reasonable time after the completion of the facility, shall cause, without expenses to the Park Service, the commencement of some type of public transportation service which would shuttle people from the area of the Charleston Place (Hotel Conference and Retail Center) and City Market (center of tourism) to and from the facility.

3. To maintain, landscape, collect garbage and remove trash, etc. from the tour boat and aquarium properties, including parking areas, as a part of the public parks program within the City of Charleston, S. C., without cost to the Park Service.

4. When built, to operate a high-quality public Marine Science Museum or Aquarium upon a portion of said property, and cooperate fully with the National Park Service in every effort to make the joint operation of said site successful in serving a proper public purpose.

5. Cooperate, support and enhance the success of the mission of the National Park Service in the City of Charleston, S. C. in the operation of Fort Sumter National Monument and the tour boat facility.

The City of Charleston applauds the United States Congress and the members of this Committee for heretofore authorizing appropriations for this much needed facility, and urges prompt passage of the present Bill which would authorize the spending of these funds at a new location, and in such a manner as to enable private industry and the City of Charleston, to unite with the National Park Service in establishing and operating a facility long needed by the hundreds of thousands of our citizens who visit Fort Sumter National Monument each year.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph P. Riley, Jr., Mayor
City of Charleston, S. C.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. You have a wonderful city. I have enjoyed all my stays there.

Mr. RILEY. Thank you, sir. Please come back and visit us.

Senator HECHT. I hope to many, many times.

Mr. George Campsen Jr., president, Fort Sumter Tours.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE E. CAMPSEN, JR., PRESIDENT, FORT SUMTER TOURS, INC., CHARLESTON, SC

Mr. CAMPSEN. Mr. Chairman, it is indeed an honor and a privilege to be present here today to discuss this important matter with this committee.

For a number of years, as the National Park Service will attest, we have been trying to establish and locate a proper tour boat facility in the city of Charleston for Fort Sumter visitors. Fort Sumter National Monument, much like the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor, is located on a small island and of course that is only one leg of the bridge, if you will. We need a tour boat facility up on the mainland to complete the bridge gap.

For years we have been trying to establish a location, and one simply has not been available which would be suitable for the needs of all the people. Downtown historic Charleston is a very, very unique place in itself, but trying to find waterfront property suitable for a tour boat facility is indeed a problem.

Fortunately, a piece of property, this piece of property that is the subject of this bill, became available for sale and we were fearful that the property would be sold and committed to other purposes. Mr. Chairman, through the initial support of the city of Charleston and the National Park Service, no one else being available, I obtained an option to acquire this property. I offered to sign the option over to the National Park Service and to the city, or a portion of it, but they were without sufficient funds to do that, or any funds at all to do it.

So I did. I acquired the option. The landowner would not extend the option, so we were confronted with the decision of whether or not to go ahead and acquire the property or let it go. I acquired the property with the help of a substantial loan from one of our local banks, and I have been extending to the National Park Service and the city of Charleston in a sense an option to acquire a major portion of this land, but I have been financing the option.

I do not mind doing this in the hopes that the appraised value of this land will enable me to at least come out even. It is a great opportunity, sir, for the Fort Sumter National Monument and the people of this country who enjoy visiting Fort Sumter, and we have carried about 3 million people to Fort Sumter since we have been engaged in that business. Presently we carry about 180,000 people to Fort Sumter annually.

This is a necessity for the continuation of this monument for the enjoyment of Americans from all parts of the country. There simply is no other location. There is no other location available in the city of Charleston which has the benefits that this location does.

Sir, the passage of this bill is urgently needed, and I hope that you will give it as quick attention as you possibly can. I thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Campsen follows:]

INFORMATION FOR

UBLIC LANDS SUB-COMMITTEE, U. S. SENATE
JULY 18, 1986

RE: FORT SUMTER NATIONAL MONUMENT
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

TOUR BOAT FACILITY
DOCKSIDE II SITE

BACKGROUND:

For a number of years the National Park Service (NPS) and the City of Charleston, S. C. (City) have felt an urgent need to find a suitable location, within the City, for a tour boat facility and the S. C. Marine Museum, or aquarium. George E. Campsen, Jr., (GEC) both as a civic minded Charlestonian, and one with an interest in Fort Sumter National Monument, being the President of Fort Sumter Tours, Inc., Concessioner, desired to assist in solving such problems.

In the spring of 1985, GEC determined that a very suitable 4.81 acre tract of high land was available in downtown Charleston on the Cooper River. Prior to making plans for development, it was absolutely mandatory that the right to acquire the site be secured by option or purchase, since the property was generally on the market for sale. Having obtained preliminary support from the NPS and the Mayor of the City, GEC negotiated an option to secure said property and preserve same for the intended uses. An offer was made to assign a portion of the option, but neither the NPS or the City had funds available for this purpose. Before the option period expired, with the assistance of a bank loan in the amount of One Million, Six Hundred Thousand ($1,600,000.00) Dollars, the property was purchased by GEC on January 14, 1986, in order to maintain the availability of same for NPS use. The interest expenses through June 1986 is $72,861.64 and continues presently at 9.5% or $416.44 per day.

PROPERTY UNIQUE:

This 4.81 acres of high land and 4.1 acres of submerged land, located in the heart of downtown Charleston, S. C., on deep waters of the Cooper River, is quite unique. It is absolutely the only piece of property in the peninsula City of Charleston which is available and suitable for use as a tour boat facility. It represents 100% of the supply of such property. Attached hereto is an architectural conceptual drawing showing that the property is suitable for the intended uses of a private restaurant, NPS tour boat facility and S. C. Marine Museum. Architects for the NPS and the City agree that said property is suitable for the uses shown.

EARLY CONSIDERATION REQUESTED:

Originally NPS estimated April 30, 1986 as the soonest

Congressional authority for acquisition could be secured, but GEC believed May 31, 1986 was more realistic and agreed, as a third party, to purchase the property and keep a major portion thereof available for exclusive NPS use as a tour boat facility, etc. However, through no fault of NPS or GEC, it now appears that Congressional authority, if granted, may be delayed, even though support for the project is unanimous, at all levels of NPS, and the South Carolina Congressional Delegation, and even though it appears that sufficient monies have already been appropriated (PL 96-199, Sec. 117) for a tour boat facility in Charleston. It is believed that no additional funds would be necessary, but only a modification of, or amendment to, the present appropriation. In reality, since May 10, 1985, GEC has granted NPS an exclusive option to acquire the needed property by purchase, at fair market value, based on an appraisal approved by NPS, but GEC, not NPS, is financing the option. Certainly this is a most unusual business arrangement and one which cannot continue indefinitely. Naturally, GEC has a special and personal interest in seeing this project succeed since it would greatly benefit Fort Sumter National Monument. Also it is hoped that a current appraisal would establish the fair market value at such a level so that the interest expense and other costs would be off set, but this is merely a "hope" of GEC. However, GEC requests and hopes that this Committee, working with the Bill's authors and others, will expedite the passage of this Bill so that this needed project can be realized at this outstanding location, and the "interest clock" will stop ticking away the family resources of GEC, who alone has made the site available. Also, should the Congress decide to reject this Bill, it is requested that such descision also be made as early as possible.

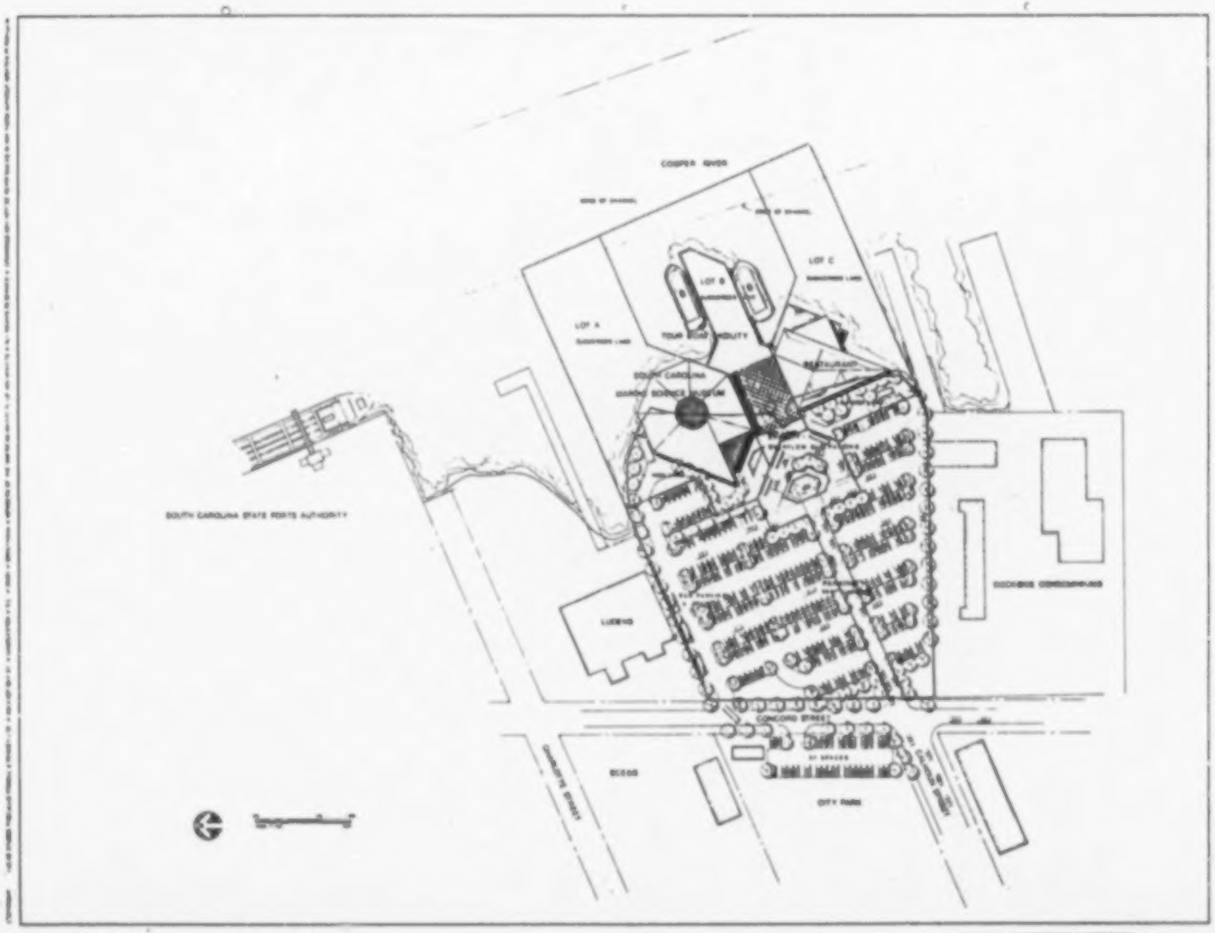
Additionally, the City Marina, where Fort Sumter Tours presently originate, is being choked with congestion, because of normal growth and the imminent domain "taking" of a major portion of the Marina for roadway and bridge construction, now in progress. The need is present and urgent, and this site represents the only solution to this dilemna for Fort Sumter National Monument and Charleston, South Carolina.

Respectfully submitted,

George E Campsen, Jr.

George E. Campsen, Jr.

GECJr/bs


COOPER RIVER
LOT A
LOT B
LOT C
TOUR BOAT FACILITY
RESTAURANT
SOUTH CAROLINA
MARINE SCIENCE MUSEUM
CONCORD STREET
CITY PARK
CHARLOTTE STREET
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE PORTS AUTHORITY

Senator **Hecht**. I thank you.

Mr. Campsen, we note that you have an option on the property. The National Park Service supports the site. Would you mind if we asked the Trust for Public Lands or another conservation trust to assess whether they may have a role in this acquisition?

Mr. **Campsen**. No, sir. I would appreciate it if you would do that. If timely passage of this bill is not practical, or is a reality, the interest I am paying on this loan, sir, is about $450 per day. Of course you cannot continue in that kind of situation indefinitely. Some other use would have to be made of this land, or some other development. We really need it in the public interest for Fort Sumter National Monument, and if someone could assist in some way that transition—and I might add that the purchase price for the National Park Service will be fair market value as determined by a competent appraisal of the property. So it is just that someone has to keep the property available until this bill is passed and we are able to start construction.

I ask, if you could consider this bill as promptly as you can, it would be a great help.

Senator **Hecht**. Thank you. It sounds like private enterprise and government are working together. I guess we made one mistake this morning. We should have kept Senator Rockefeller here and maybe he could have passed it on to some members of his family, huh? [Laughter.]

Mr. **Campsen**. Yes sir. Call him back, if you will. [Laughter.]

Senator **Hecht**. Thank you both, very much.

Mr. **Riley**. Thank you, Senator.

Mr. **Campsen**. Thank you, Senator.

Senator **Hecht**. The Honorable Virgil Getto; Mr. Stephen Richer, the Honorable Barlow White, Mr. Ferrel Hansen, Mr. Art Olson.

Virgil, it is nice to see you here. For the record, I want to point out that you and I served over 20 years ago in the Nevada Legislature, and you are still there. You have been a great credit to our State.

Would you like to go first?

STATEMENT OF HON. VIRGIL GETTO, NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLYMAN, DISTRICT 35

Mr. **Getto**. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank you and members of the committee for this opportunity to be here, especially since it was on short notice, and you did help me be able to make a presentation.

For the record, I am Virgil Getto. I am State assemblyman, district 35. I am chairman of the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining Committee, and a member of the Nevada Public Lands Committee.

District 35 is often called the Highway 50 corridor, because my district represents four counties connected together by Highway 50, a distance of about 285 miles from Fallon where I live, and it extends all the way to the Utah border passing through historic towns of Austin, Eureka, and Ely.

This stretch of road was written up in Life magazine as the most desolate road in the United States. Thousands of people disagree, but it has decreased in traffic, so the highway has not been improved or maintained as it should be. No new services have been built such as rest stops because of the lack of traffic. This route is far from desolate, but a very scenic way through Nevada to Utah, or vice versa to California.

With the establishment of a national park in the Mount Wheeler area, Highway 50 into four Nevada towns will certainly feel the impact of national park visitors going from either the Northern California Redwood National Park or Central California Yosemite National Park to the several national parks in Utah, or vice versa, making the Great Basin National Park an important link in the chain of parks in the West.

The proposed area has many unique features for a great park. It is the south snake of the Humboldt National Forest containing the highest mountain wholly situated in Nevada. It has two of the world's oldest living forests of bristlecone pine. We can boast that as Senator Rockefeller boasted about the second oldest river. We have the oldest growing vegetation in the world, the pine, which is said to be over 4,600 years old.

These forests are contrasted with an existing glacier all contained in this relatively small area. It represents sand and limestone deposits, of which Lehman Caves were created, a cave that is a true phenomenon and one of the great wonders of the world.

The area also represents all of the features of the Great Basin ecosystem. From the peak of Mount Wheeler to its base it is representative of that area that extends from that situation all the way to the North Pole. In addition to the unique features of the present national monument which is proposed as a national part are several State parks and lakes which provide excellent camping and fishing such as Cave Lake, Allapah Reservoir, and the Charcoal Ovens, all within a short distance of the proposed park.

Another attraction which is close by in the town of Ely is the old Northern Nevada Railroad owned by the Kennecott Copper Corp., which is being donated to a private nonprofit corporation. It will feature an old depot with all the old memorabilia—it looks like they just walked out of the depot yesterday.

Some of the rolling stock has been donated with promises of more to come. It is a wonderful museum of railroad history in an old mining town in the West featuring many rare pieces of railroad equipment which were used during the operation of the copper mines. The Nevada Legislature appropriated $100,000 to the foundation to help Ely show good faith in maintaining and managing this great asset. I was the sponsor of the bill making the appropriation.

Presently, Mount Wheeler and Lehman Caves host about 40,000 visitors annually. In 1984, 38,923 visited the national monument. Compare this figure with visitors' days at national parks in Utah in 1985 such as Bryce with 501,000.

Senator HECHT. Virgil, your time is up. Your entire statement will be made a part of the record, but if you want to summarize you may.

Mr. GETTO. All right. Summarizing, Nevada does not have a national park, but has great features to offer with its vast expanse of space, its rugged colorful mountains, its clean air, and that wonderful bright Nevada sunshine. She has a great abundance of space to provide many hours of quiet, peaceful encounters with nature, and I support this particular version of the park.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much for coming all that way to testify.

Mr. GETTO. Yes. Mr. Chairman, I also have the testimony I gave at the other hearing which would probably have some benefit to this committee.

[The prepared statements of Mr. Getto follow:]

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I'm Virgil Getto, State Assemblyman of Nevada, District 35. I'm Chairman of the Natural Resources, Agriculture and Mining Committee, and a Member of the Nevada Public Lands Committee. District 35 is often called the Highway 50 corridor because my district represents four counties connected together by Highway 50--a distance of about 285 miles from Fallon, where I live to the Utah border, passing through historic towns of Austin, Eureka, and Ely. This stretch of road was written up in Life Magazine as the most desolate road in the U.S. Thousands of people disagree, but it has decreased in traffic so the hgihway has not been improved or maintained as it should be. No new services have been built, such as rest stops, because of the lack of traffic. This route is far from desolate, but a very scenic way through Nevada to Utah, or vice-versa to California.

With the establishment of a National Park in the Mt. Wheeler area, Highway 50 and the four Nevada towns would certainly feel the impact of the National Park visitors going from either the Northern California Redwood National Park, or Central California Yosemite National Park, to the several National Parks in Utah, making the Great Basin National Park an important link in a chain of parks in the West.

The proposed area has many unique features for a great park. It is the South Snake of the Humboldt National Forest, containing the highest mountain wholly situated in Nevada. It has two of the world's oldest living forests of Bristlecone Pine, which are said to be 4,600 years old; these forests are contrasted with an existing glacier, all contained in this relatively small area. It represents the sand and limestone deposits of which Leaman Caves were created, a cave that is a true phenomenon, and one of the great wonders of the world.

The area also represents all of the features of the Great Basin ecosystem. From the peak of Mt. Wheeler, to its base, it is representative of that area to the North Pole. In addition to the unique features of the present National Monument, which is proposed as a National Park, are several State Parks and lakes which provide excellent camping and fishing--such as Cave Lake, Allapah Reservoir, and the Charcoal ovens--all within a short distance of the proposed park.

Another attraction which is close by in the town of Ely is the Old Northern Nevada Railroad owned by the Kennecott Corporation, which is being donated to a private non-profit corporation; it will feature an old depot with all the old memorabilia--it looks like they just walked out of yesterday. Some of the rolling stock has been donated with promises of more to come. It is a wonderful museum of railroad history in an old mining town of the West, featuring many rare pieces of railroad equipment, which were used during the operation of the copper mines. The Nevada legislature appropriated $100,000 to the Foundation to help Ely show good faith in maintaining and managing this great asset. I was the sponsor of the bill making the appropriation.

Presently, Mt. Wheeler and Leaman Caves host about 40,000 visitors annually. In 1984, 38,923 visited the National Monument--compare this figure with visitors' days at National Parks in Utah in 1985, such as Bryce: 501,000; Zion: 503,000; Capitol Reef: 321,000; and Canyon Land: 117,000. Finally, the two National Parks that I mentioned in the California Redwood Forests with 506,000 visitors and Yosemite with 2,832,000.

I believe that the proposed smaller park has less detrimental impact on the mining industry, cattle ranching, and wildlife, while still providing a great area for visitors who love the outdoors.

Nevada does not have a National Park, but has great features to offer with its vast expanse of space, its rugged, colorful mountains, its clean air, and that wonderful bright Nevada sunshine. She has a great abundance of space to provide many hours of quiet, peaceful encounters with Nature.

STATEMENT BY NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLYMAN VIRGIL M. GETTO TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

Reference the proposal contained in HR 3302 to create a
Great Basin National Park in Nevada

NOVEMBER 25, 1985
ELY, NEVADA

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I LIVE IN FALLON, NEVADA, AND REPRESENT ASSEMBLY DISTRICT NO. 35 IN NEVADA'S STATE LEGISLATURE. MY DISTRICT INCLUDES WHITE PINE COUNTY AND PORTIONS OF CHURCHILL, EUREKA, AND LANDER COUNTIES.

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WELCOME YOU TO NEVADA AND THE CITY OF ELY. ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF MY DISTRICT, I ALSO WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION TO YOU FOR CONDUCTING THIS HEARING IN ELY AND FOR PROVIDING US WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE OUR VIEWS CONCERNING THE PROPOSAL TO CREATE A NATIONAL PARK IN THIS AREA.

AS YOU KNOW, THE IDEA OF A GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK IN THE WHEELER PEAK AREA OF WHITE PINE COUNTY IS NOT NEW. PROPOSALS TO CREATE SUCH A PARK FIRST SURFACED IN CONGRESS IN 1924 AND AGAIN DURING THE 1960'S. HOWEVER, CONDITIONS CHANGE AND IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT WE EXAMINE AGAIN THE EFFECTS OF THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO UTILIZE AND PRESERVE THE NATURAL BEAUTY AND RESOURCES IN THIS UNIQUE AREA OF OUR COUNTRY. I WOULD LIKE TO REVIEW BRIEFLY THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES, AND CONCLUDE WITH MY OWN OBSERVATIONS ON THE CURRENT PROPOSAL.

ADVANTAGES

AS YOU WILL HEAR MANY TIMES TODAY, THE MAJOR ADVANTAGES OF THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL PARK RELATE PRIMARILY TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

IT IS NO SECRET THAT ELY AND OTHER SMALLER CITIES AND TOWNS IN THE RURAL COUNTIES OF NEVADA ARE SUFFERING FROM ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. A NATIONAL PARK WOULD PROVIDE A POSITIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON WHITE PINE COUNTY AND OTHER COUNTIES LOCATED ALONG KEY TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS LEADING TO THE WHEELER PEAK AREA. PREVIOUS STUDIES ESTIMATE THAT THIS IMPACT COULD AMOUNT TO UP TO $10 MILLION OR MORE TO NEVADA'S ECONOMY PER YEAR.

ACCORDING TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF LEHMAN CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT, THE CAVES ALONE HOST ABOUT 40,000 VISITORS PER YEAR--38,923 IN 1984. REGIONAL VISITORS--THOSE WITHIN A 3- TO 5-HOUR DRIVE OF THE AREA--ACCOUNT FOR 48 PERCENT OF THIS NUMBER, NATIONAL VISITORS ACCOUNT FOR 44 PERCENT, AND THE REMAINDER ARE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL VISITORS. THE NUMBER OF TOURISTS AND THE PERCENTAGE OF NATIONAL VISITORS UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD INCREASE WITH THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL PARK IN THIS AREA IN CONJUNCTION WITH LEHMAN CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT.

A CURSORY LOOK AT A MAP OF THE WESTERN STATES SHOWS THAT THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK TIES IN WELL WITH THE GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK IN NORTHERN ARIZONA AND THE FIVE NATIONAL PARKS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN UTAH--FROM ARCHES NATIONAL PARK IN EASTERN UTAH TO ZION NATIONAL PARK IN THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF UTAH. IT IS LOGICAL TO ASSUME THAT MANY VACATIONERS FROM EASTERN, MIDWESTERN AND SOUTHERN STATES WOULD INCLUDE THE PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK IN A TOUR OF MAJOR

WESTERN PARKS SINCE IT WOULD BE A DAY'S DRIVE OR LESS FROM EACH OF THESE OTHER PARKS.

IN ADDITION, THE PROPOSED PARK IS LOCATED A DAY'S DRIVE FROM THE RENO-CARSON CITY-LAKE TAHOE AREA ALONG UNITED STATES HIGHWAY 50 WHICH ALSO PROVIDES ACCESS TO CALIFORNIA. INCREASED TOURISM COULD BENEFIT THE COMMUNITIES ALONG THE HIGHWAY 50 CORRIDOR FROM ELY TO FALLON AS VACATIONERS TAKE THE SHORTEST ROUTE TO OTHER POPULAR SITES IN THE WEST. ALSO, OVER 20 MILLION RESIDENTS OF CALIFORNIA ARE LOCATED WITHIN A 10- TO 12-HOUR DRIVE FROM THE WHEELER PEAK AREA.

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY THROUGHOUT NEVADA, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE DEPRESSED RURAL COUNTIES. ONE EXAMPLE OF THESE EFFORTS HERE IN ELY TO INCREASE TOURISM IS THE PLANNED RAILROAD MUSEUM AND RESTORATION OF THE NORTHERN NEVADA STEAM RAILROAD. DURING ITS 1985 SESSION, THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE APPROPRIATED $100,000 TO THE WHITE PINE RAILROAD FOUNDATION TO ASSIST THE CITY WITH ITS RAILROAD RESTORATION PROGRAM. THIS APPROPRIATION WILL BE COMBINED WITH LOCAL FUNDS AND THE DEED OF ROLLING STOCK, EQUIPMENT, BUILDINGS, TRACK AND RAILROAD YARDS BY THE KENNECOTT MINERALS CORPORATION TO CREATE A FIRST-CLASS ATTRACTION. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL PARK COULD SIGNIFICANTLY BENEFIT THIS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORT IN ELY.

OTHER ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES INCLUDE THE MONEY PROVIDED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL PARK FACILITIES AND THE ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WHICH WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN THE NATIONAL PARK.

AS A FINAL MAJOR ADVANTAGE, THE PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK COULD HELP DISPEL THE PERCEPTION IN OTHER PARTS OF OUR

NATION THAT NEVADA IS A VAST WASTELAND. THE NATIONAL PARK COULD SERVE AS A SHOWCASE AND HELP EDUCATE OTHERS ABOUT THE NATURAL BEAUTY AND SCENIC WONDERS OF THE GREAT BASIN THAT WE WHO LIVE HERE KNOW TO EXIST IN NEVADA.

DISADVANTAGES

THE MAJOR DISADVANTAGES OF THE PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK ALSO RELATE TO ECONOMIC IMPACTS--PARTICULARLY ON MINING, RANCHING AND HUNTING. ESTIMATES OF THE ECONOMIC LOSS DUE TO THE CREATION OF THE PARK RANGE UP TO $200,000 PER YEAR.

HUNTING IN THE PROPOSED PARK AREA IS A PRIMARY OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITY THAT ATTRACTS PEOPLE TO THE ELY AREA. HOWEVER, HUNTING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED IN NATIONAL PARKS. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE, AND OTHER SOURCES, THE PROPOSED PARK AREA INCLUDES A DEER HERD CONSISTING OF ABOUT 3,000 DEER. ABOUT 120 DEER ARE HARVESTED EACH YEAR FROM THIS LAND. IN ADDITION, THE AREA RECORDED 2,200 RECREATION VISITOR DAYS FOR DEER HUNTING, 500 RECREATION VISITOR DAYS FOR GROUSE HUNTING AND 1,000 VISITOR DAYS FOR TRAPPING PRIMARILY BOBCAT AND COYOTE.

UNDER CURRENT PROVISIONS OF THE PROPOSED BILL, THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF MINING IN THE AREA WOULD BE RESTRICTED. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT EXISTING MINING CLAIMS WOULD CONTINUE BUT NO NEW MINING CLAIMS WOULD BE ALLOWED. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM THE FOREST SERVICE, MOST STUDIES INDICATE THAT THE MINERAL POTENTIAL IN THE PROPOSED PARK AREA IS LOW. HOWEVER, THE AREA INCLUDES 479 ACTIVE, VALID MINING CLAIMS AND AN OIL AND GAS LEASE. NONE OF THESE CLAIMS APPARENTLY ARE PRODUCING MINERALS AT THIS TIME.

THE FINAL MAJOR DISADVANTAGE TO THE PROPOSED PARK RELATES TO THE RANCHING INDUSTRY IN THE AREA. LANGUAGE IN THE BILL PROVIDES THAT THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR MAY ALLOW EXISTING GRAZING RIGHTS TO CONTINUE. THIS PROVISION APPARENTLY WOULD PROVIDE THE SECRETARY WITH GREAT DISCRETION IN ADMINISTERING OR TERMINATING EXISTING GRAZING RIGHTS. RANCHERS IN THE AREA WOULD BE PLACED IN LIMBO, OR A STATE OF CONSTANT UNCERTAINTY OVER THEIR GRAZING RIGHTS.

AGAIN, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM THE FOREST SERVICE AND OTHER SOURCES, THE PROPOSED PARK AREA INCLUDES FIVE CATTLE ALLOTMENTS FOR SIX RANCHERS WITH 2,584 ANIMAL UNIT MONTHS TO GRAZE 571 HEAD OF CATTLE. THE AREA ALSO INCLUDES TWO SHEEP ALLOTMENTS FOR ONE PERMITTEE WITH 1,843 ANIMAL UNIT MONTHS TO GRAZE 2,437 HEAD OF SHEEP. THESE ALLOTMENTS ARE IN EFFECT FOR VARIOUS PERIODS OF TIME BETWEEN MAY 16 AND OCTOBER 10 EACH YEAR.

OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

I BELIEVE THAT IT IS TOO EARLY AT THIS POINT IN TIME TO TAKE A DEFINITE STAND ON THE ISSUE OF CREATING THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK. MY BRIEF REVIEW INDICATES THAT THE ADVANTAGES APPEAR TO OUTWEIGH THE DISADVANTAGES. HOWEVER, LIKE YOU, I WOULD HESITATE TO MAKE A FINAL DECISION UNTIL I HAVE HEARD FROM THE CITIZENS WHO WILL BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED.

OUR DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IS IDEAL BECAUSE THE DISADVANTAGES OF A PROPOSAL ARE USUALLY EXAMINED AND MINIMIZED BEFORE A FINAL DECISION IS MADE. FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL IS TO BE ADOPTED BY THE CONGRESS:

1. THE EFFECT ON HUNTERS IN THE AREA SHOULD BE REVIEWED. DISCUSSION OF THIS PROPOSAL IN PREVIOUS YEARS INDICATES THAT

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS COULD BE MADE TO ALLOW HUNTERS TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE DEER HERD AND OTHER BIG GAME ANIMALS IN THE AREA.

2. ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF RANCHERS IN THE PROPOSED PARK AREA APPEARS TO BE SMALL, THEIR INTERESTS ALSO MUST BE CONSIDERED. THE LANGUAGE IN THE GRAZING SECTION OF THE BILL SHOULD BE MODIFIED TO GUARANTEE THE CONTINUATION OF EXISTING GRAZING RIGHTS. IF EXISTING GRAZING RIGHTS ARE TO BE TERMINATED, ADEQUATE COMPENSATION SHOULD BE PROVIDED.

3. THE MINERAL POTENTIAL OF THE PROPOSED PARK AREA SHOULD BE EXAMINED CAREFULLY AND APPROPRIATE BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS MADE WHERE NECESSARY.

I ASK AND ENCOURAGE YOU AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND ON THIS ISSUE. IF YOU DECIDE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THIS PROPOSAL, I ALSO REQUEST THAT YOU WORK CLOSELY WITH THE PEOPLE AND OFFICIALS OF WHITE PINE COUNTY TO MINIMIZE THESE OR OTHER PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE.

IF THE CHOICE IN THIS ISSUE IS SOLELY BETWEEN THE NATIONAL PARK DESIGNATION OR A WILDERNESS AREA, IT APPEARS THAT THE PARK PROPOSAL WOULD BE MORE BENEFICIAL. THE ONLY APPARENT DIFFERENCES IN MANAGEMENT BETWEEN A WILDERNESS AND A PARK ARE:

1. HUNTING IS PROHIBITED IN A NATIONAL PARK BUT NOT IN A WILDERNESS AREA;

2. ROADS ARE ALLOWED IN A PARK BUT NOT IN A WILDERNESS AREA; AND

3. UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CURRENT PROPOSAL, GRAZING COULD BE TERMINATED OR STRICTLY REGULATED IN THE PARK.

THE RESTRICTIONS ON MINING APPEAR TO BE THE SAME UNDER BOTH DESIGNATIONS. NATIONAL PARK DESIGNATION WOULD HAVE A GREATER ECONOMIC BENEFIT THAN WILDERNESS DESIGNATION SINCE MORE AGES AND VARIETIES OF PEOPLE WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO THE NATIONAL PARK. ALSO, NATIONAL PARK VISITORS GENERALLY TEND TO BE MORE NUMEROUS AND ARE KNOWN TO SPEND MORE MONEY IN THE LOCAL AREA THAN ARE WILDERNESS VISITORS.

ONCE AGAIN, I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS YOUR COMMITTEE AND TO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL FOR A GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND CONSIDERATION.

WITH BEST WISHES AND REGARDS,
Virgil Getto
VIRGIL M. GETTO
NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLYMAN
1400 LOVELOCK HIGHWAY
FALLON, NEVADA 89406

Senator HECHT. It will be included in the record. Thank you very much.

The Honorable Barlow White, mayor of the city of Ely.

STATEMENT OF HON. BARLOW N. WHITE, MAYOR, CITY OF ELY, NV

Mr. WHITE. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much.

While the battle lines were being drawn and the accusations and insinuations were being bantered about, I did a little homework and came up with some interesting results.

As you know, in 1960 the proposal for the Great Basin National Park was defeated. At that time the convincing arguments against the park were the same as those against it today, mining would be destroyed, grazing would be abolished, and the economic value of the park was being overstated by those for it.

Now in 1986 we can see what the defeat of the national park did bring to Ely and White Pine County. Today the population in White Pine County is estimated at 7,640. In 1960 the population was 9,808.

The mining work force in White Pine County in 1960 was 1,411. Today the mining work force is estimated at less than 400.

The agricultural work force in 1960 was estimated to be 227 in White Pine County. Today the agricultural work force is estimated to be less than 150.

The Great Basin National Park was defeated in 1960 because its opponents demanded its creation would ruin mining and agriculture. The above-stated facts show certainly different. The economic plight of Ely and White Pine County have been well documented. There has been no growth in mining and agricultural industries since the issue was defeated in 1960.

Now is the time for a change. The city council of the city of Ely feels that the creation of the Great Basin National Park will be of economic value to Ely and White Pine County. Therefore, the city council of the city of Ely unanimously supports its creation. The combination of the Nevada Northern Railroad Museum, the Great Basin National Park, and the present tourist attractions Ely and White Pine County have to offer can make White Pine County a major destination for tourists.

Thank you.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much, Mayor, and thank you for coming.

Mr. Stephen Richer, executive director, Nevada Commission on Tourism.

Mr. RICHER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I first would like to submit for the record the supporting statement of Governor Richard Bryan, the Governor of the State of Nevada.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

I have it, and it will be made a part of the record.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Governor Bryan follows:]

TESTIMONY OF RICHARD H. BRYAN
GOVERNOR, STATE OF NEVADA

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITES STATES SENATE

REGARDING
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR
NATIONAL PARK DESIGNATION IN NEVADA

WASHINGTON, D.C.
JULY 18, 1986

MR. CHAIRMAN, I WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER MY UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION OF A GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK, THE FIRST NATIONAL PARK IN OUR STATE. AS YOU KNOW THE PROSPECT OF A NATIONAL PARK IN THE STATE OF NEVADA IS NOT A NEW ONE. IT HAS BEEN CONSIDERED AS EARLY AS THE 1920'S.

THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF SUCH A PARK WERE LAST THOROUGHLY CONSIDERED IN THE MID 1960'S. AT THAT TIME GOVERNOR GRANT SAWYER AND THEN LT. GOVERNOR PAUL LAXALT SERVED ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ORGANIZED TO PUSH FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL PARK.

THE WHEELER PEAK AREA...CENTERPIECE OF THE PROPOSED PARK...EVIDENCES THE DIVERSITY OF NEVADA'S SPECTACULAR GEOLOGY

AND THE VARIETY OF OUR WILDLIFE. THE PEAK, AT 13,063 FEET, IS NEVADA'S SECOND HIGHEST. RISING NEARLY 8,000 FEET ABOVE THE SURROUNDING VALLEYS...THE VISTA OFFERS ALPINE LAKES, BIGHORN SHEEP AND MULE DEER HERDS, ANCIENT BRISTLECONE PINES, AND NEARBY LEHMAN'S CAVERNS. IT IS A RESOURCE TREASURE WE CAN PRESERVE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF NEVADANS, WHILE WE SHARE IT WITH THE NATION.

THE PARK LOCATION IS WELL SUITED TO BE INCLUDED IN A NATIONAL PARK TRAVEL LOOP. IT IS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO NATIONAL PARKS IN UTAH AND ARIZONA. THE PARK WOULD ALSO COMPLIMENT OTHER EASTERN NEVADA ATTRACTIONS, INCLUDING STATE PARKS, GHOST TOWNS AND SUCH ATTRACTIONS IN THE ELY AREA AS THE RAILROAD MUSEUM.

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF A NATIONAL PARK IN NEVADA IS APPARENT. A NATIONAL PARK WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT ADDITION TO THE

ECONOMY OF EASTERN NEVADA, AND CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO OUR GOALS OF DEVELOPMENT AND DIVERSIFICATION OF THE NEVADA ECONOMY. IT WOULD EXPAND UPON AND ENHANCE TOURISM, PROMOTIONAL MECHANISMS, AND ACTIVITIES ALREADY IN PLACE.

ALL NEVADANS WOULD SHARE THE PRIDE IN OUR STATE A NATIONAL PARK WOULD ENGENDER, AND THE PROPOSED PARK WOULD WELL REPRESENT THE REMARKABLE SCENIC DIVERSITY WHICH TRULY CHARACTERIZES NEVADA'S LAND.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT A PARK OF ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY THOUSAND ACRES IN SIZE WOULD COMPRISE LESS THAN TWO TENTHS OF 1 PER CENT OF NEVADA'S SEVENTY ONE MILLION ACRES OF LAND.

A PARK PROPOSAL MUST, HOWEVER, ASSURE THE PROTECTION OF RESOURCES UPON WHICH MANY NEVADAN'S DEPEND. A REASONABLE APPROACH MUST BALANCE THE LEGITIMATE NEEDS OF AGRICULTURAL, LIVESTOCK, AND MINING INTEPESTS.

I UNDERSTAND THE CONCERNS OF THE FIVE CATTLE RANCHERS AND ONE SHEEP OPERATION WHICH RUN APPROXIMATELY FIVE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY HEAD OF CATTLE AND TWO THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED HEAD OF SHEEP, AND THE OPPOSITION OF LIVESTOCK OPERATORS IN GENERAL TO THE PROPOSAL. THE CONCEPT OF A LIFETIME RIGHT TO USE THE LANDS, PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF THE CURRENT LIVESTOCK OPERATORS BE INCORPORATED INTO THE PARK PROPOSAL TO ADDRESS SUCH CONCERNS.

THERE ARE PRESENTLY NO ACTIVE MINES WITHIN THE PROPOSED PARK AREA. I RECOGNIZE THE CONCERNS OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY REGARDING POTENTIAL MINERAL VALUE IN THE AREA. THE PARK PROPOSAL SHOULD PERMIT THE EXERCISE OF PERFECTED MINING RIGHTS.

IMPACTS ON WILDLIFE ARE ANOTHER CONCERN. FISHING IS NORMALLY PERMITTED IN NATIONAL PARKS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS AND THIS PROVISION SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK. I SUPPORT SPECIFIC LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR THE DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT OF A PARK ESPECIALLY SUITED TO THE STATE OF NEVADA AND TAILORED TO NEVADA'S UNIQUE CONDITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES.

I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE THE COMMITTEE TO ENDORSE A NATIONAL PARK FOR NEVADA.

STATEMENT OF STEPHEN B. RICHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NEVADA COMMISSION ON TOURISM, CARSON CITY, NV

Mr. RICHER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On behalf of the Nevada Commission on Tourism which unanimously supported the Great Basin National Park, I would like to summarize my statement. First of all, tourism is the leading industry in the State of Nevada employing more than one-third of all of our workers.

The Nevada Commission on Tourism, which is a 3-year-old agency, has been spending much of its time working on rural parts of our State, particularly in eastern Nevada. We believe that efforts in this part of our State particularly relating to the proposed Great Basin National Park would be very helpful to that portion of the State of Nevada.

Historic patterns at other national parks show significant growth after designation of a national park. The Lehman Caves National Monument had approximately 39,000 visitors in 1984. Based on the growth of national park designations comparing with other new national park designations, we would estimate that that would grow to 52,000 in 1986.

Other aspects of issues that have come before the subcommittee that are important regard the current infrastructure for the national park. There already is maintained a ranger station, a visitor's center, and an area to manage and operate the Lehman Caves National Monument.

There are five developed campsites, three interpretative trails, and 37 additional miles of developed trails in the proposed area. The tourism commission would particularly like to cite that the city of Ely is ready for a national park. This town has more than 500 hotel and motel rooms, nearly 20 restaurants, a convention center, supermarkets, a modern airport, and serves as the crossroads for two major highways, Route 50 and Route 93.

Once a major mining center, Ely has experienced an economic downturn in recent years because of the closure of the largest mining operation. We do want to recognize that the most important reason to designate this area as a national park is that it deserves to be one. Few areas in the West can compare with its natural beauty. Visitors to the area find forests of tall green furs and aspens, scenic alpine lakes, and clear bubbling streams. On higher ground there are groves of the rare bristlecone pines which only grow at elevations of 10,000 to 11,000 feet.

You have heard this morning from many people that the area is legitimately of national park caliber. Its proximity to great national parks in Utah like Zion and Bryce make it a natural addition to a national park western loop created for American families on vacation.

As you have also heard, this is not a new idea. It has been long recognized as having national park potential. It was first proposed in 1924 by Nevada Senator Key Pittman. It was at that time also defeated for mining and grazing issues.

In 1955 Senators Bible and Cannon again proposed the park which passed the Senate, only to fail in the House.

In summary, the Nevada Commission on Tourism urges the Senate to again show the foresight and vision it had two decades ago when it approved the Great Basin National Park, and Nevada would very much, as you know Senator Hecht, like to join the ranks of those States which have a national park.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Richer follows:]

NEVADA
NEVADA'S GOT IT

Nevada Commission on Tourism
Capitol Complex
Carson City, NV 89710

TESTIMONY OF STEPHEN B. RICHER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NEVADA COMMISSION ON TOURISM

GOOD MORNING MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE. MY NAME IS STEPHEN B. RICHER AND I AM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON TOURISM. I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A FEW COMMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON TOURISM IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK IN THE WHEELER PEAK SCENIC AREA IN EASTERN NEVADA.

TOURISM IS THE NUMBER ONE INDUSTRY IN NEVADA. MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF ALL JOBS IN NEVADA ARE TOURISM RELATED. TOURISTS SPENT NEARLY EIGHT BILLION DOLLARS IN NEVADA LAST YEAR. BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF TOURISM TO THE STATE'S ECONOMY, THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON TOURISM WAS CREATED TO PROMOTE TOURISM STATEWIDE AND PARTICULARLY IN AREAS THAT NEED ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING A STRONGER TOURISM ECONOMY.

ONE AREA IN WHICH WE HAVE INVESTED A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF TIME AND ENERGY IS EASTERN NEVADA. EASTERN NEVADA TRULY IS AN UNTAPPED TOURISM RESOURCE. THE AREA CONTAINS SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAIN SCENERY IN THE NATION, INCLUDING THE WHEELER PEAK SCENIC AREA IN THE SOUTHERN SNAKE RANGE -- WHICH IS THE PROPOSED SITE OF THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK. IT IS THE OPINION OF THE NEVADA COMMISSION ON TOURISM THAT A NATIONAL PARK IN EASTERN NEVADA WOULD BE A MAJOR BOON TO THAT AREA'S TOURISM EFFORT. EVIDENCE FROM THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INDICATES THAT THE PRESENCE OF A NATIONAL PARK INCREASES THE NUMBER OF VISITORS TO AN AREA. FOR EXAMPLE, VISITOR COUNTS AT THE NATIONAL PARKS CREATED IN ALASKA IN 1981 HAVE STEADILY INCREASED EACH YEAR DESPITE THE PARKS' REMOTE LOCATIONS.

(MORE)

ESTIMATES BASED ON HISTORICAL PATTERNS AT OTHER NEW NATIONAL PARKS INDICATES THAT A CHANGE IN STATUS FROM A NATIONAL MONUMENT TO A NATIONAL PARK CAN EXPECT TO INCREASE VISITORSHIP BY 35 PERCENT IN THE FIRST TWO YEARS. CONSIDERING THAT IN 1984, THE LEHMAN CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT -- WHICH WOULD BECOME PART OF THE NEW GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK - HAD APPROXIMATELY 39,000 VISITORS, WE WOULD HAVE HAD 52,650 VISITORS IN 1986. DATA ALSO SHOWS THAT THOSE NEW VISITORS WOULD HAVE PUMPED AN ADDITIONAL ONE MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR INTO THE LOCAL ECONOMY, WHICH WOULD HAVE TURNED OVER SEVEN TIMES BEFORE IT LEFT NEVADA. BY THE END OF THE FIRST TEN YEARS, ASSUMING A SEVEN PERCENT ANNUAL VISITOR INCREASE, 136,500 NEW TOURISTS WOULD VISIT THE PARK AND SPEND MORE THAN TEN MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY IN THE STATE.

DESPITE THE FACT THAT 85.2 PERCENT OF NEVADA, OR 60 MILLION ACRES OF A TOTAL 70.2 MILLION ACRES, IS OWNED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, NEVADA DOES NOT HAVE A NATIONAL PARK. NEVADA HAS 21 STATE PARKS, THREE NATIONAL FORESTS, TWO NATIONAL MONUMENTS, A NATIONAL RECREATION AREA -- BUT NO NATIONAL PARKS.

RECENTLY, INTERIOR SECRETARY DONALD HODEL SAID HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK BECAUSE OF THE COST OF ACQUIRING THE LAND. BUT NEARLY ALL OF LAND THAT WOULD BECOME THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK IS ALREADY UNDER THE OWNERSHIP OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. ONLY ABOUT 600 ACRES OF PRIVATE LAND ARE LOCATED IN THE AREA PROPOSED AS A PARK.

MUCH OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR A NATIONAL PARK ALREADY EXISTS. THE U.S. PARK SERVICE ALREADY MAINTAINS A RANGER STATION AND VISITORS CENTER IN THE AREA TO MANAGE AND OPERATE THE LEHMAN CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT.

(MORE)

ADDITIONALLY, THE AREA ALREADY HAS FIVE DEVELOPED CAMP SITES, THREE INTERPRETIVE TRAILS AND 37 MILES OF ADDITIONAL DEVELOPED TRAILS.

THE NEARBY COMMUNITY OF ELY IS READY FOR A NATIONAL PARK. THIS TOWN OF 4,000 HAS MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED HOTEL AND MOTEL ROOMS, NEARLY TWENTY RESTAURANTS, A CONVENTION CENTER, SUPERMARKETS, A MODERN AIRPORT AND SERVES AS THE CROSSROADS FOR TWO MAJOR HIGHWAYS, U.S. ROUTE 50 AND U.S. ROUTE 93. ONCE A MAJOR MINING CENTER, ELY HAS EXPERIENCED AN ECONOMIC DOWNTURN IN RECENT YEARS BECAUSE OF THE CLOSURE OF ITS LARGEST MINING OPERATION.

THE PROPOSED PARK HAS RECEIVED BIPARTISAN SUPPORT IN NEVADA. WHILE MEMBERS OF OUR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION DIFFER ON SOME ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL, ALL HAVE ENDORSED THE CONCEPT OF A NATIONAL PARK IN THE WHEELER PEAK AREA. THE PARK HAS ALSO BEEN ENDORSED BY GOVERNOR RICHARD BRYAN AND THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION, WHICH OVERSEES THE COUNTY WHERE THE PROPOSED PARK WOULD BE LOCATED.

OF COURSE, THE MOST IMPORTANT REASON TO DESIGNATE THE WHEELER PEAK AREA AS A NATIONAL PARK IS THAT IT DESERVES TO BE A NATIONAL PARK. FEW AREAS IN THE WEST CAN COMPARE TO ITS NATURAL BEAUTY. VISITORS TO THE WHEELER PEAK AREA FIND FORESTS OF TALL GREEN FIRS AND ASPENS, SCENIC ALPINE LAKES AND CLEAR BUBBLING STREAMS. ON HIGHER GROUND THERE ARE THREE GROVES OF RARE BRISTLECONE PINES, WHICH ONLY GROW AT ELEVATIONS OF TEN THOUSAND TO ELEVEN THOUSAND FEET. THE GREAT BASIN BRISTLECONE PINES, WHICH INCLUDE TREES MORE THAN 4,500 YEARS OLD, ARE THE OLDEST IN THE U.S. WITH ITS EXPOSED ROOTS, ASYMMETRICAL TRUNK AND SMOOTH GNARLED BRANCHES, THE BRISTLECONE IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST PICTURESQUE TREES.

(MORE)

THE PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK ALSO OFFERS DRAMATIC EVIDENCE OF THE GEOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE GREAT BASIN, PARTICULARLY AT THE LEHMAN CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT. FOR FIFTY YEARS, THE CAVES HAVE INTRIGUED VISITORS WHO TOUR NEARLY A MILE OF UNDERGROUND LIMESTONE PASSAGES MOLDED BY NATURE OVER MILLIONS OF YEARS INTO FASCINATING STONE COLUMNS AND SHAPES.

AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT GEOLOGICAL FORMATION IS THE LEXINGTON ARCH, A MASSIVE NATURAL BRIDGE CARVED IN STONE BY THE ELEMENTS, THAT WOULD BE PART OF THE PARK. HIGH ATOP WHEELER PEAK IS AN ANCIENT ICE FIELD THAT SOME EXPERTS FEEL MIGHT BE THE REMNANT OF A GLACIER.

ALL OF THESE SPECTACULAR FEATURES ONLY SUPPORT THE FACT THAT THE AREA IS LEGITIMATELY OF NATIONAL PARK CALIBER. ITS PROXIMITY TO THE GREAT NATIONAL PARKS OF UTAH, SUCH AS ZION AND BRYCE CANYON, MAKE IT A NATURAL ADDITION TO THE NATIONAL PARK WESTERN LOOP TRAVELED BY MANY AMERICAN FAMILIES ON VACATION.

A NATIONAL PARK DESIGNATION WILL HELP NEVADA DISPEL THE POPULAR MISCONCEPTION THAT THE STATE IS A FLAT DESERT WASTELAND SUITABLE ONLY FOR MILITARY TRAINING OPERATIONS OR NUCLEAR TESTING. OUR HOPE IS THAT A NATIONAL PARK WILL BEGIN THE PROCESS OF EDUCATING VISITORS ABOUT NEVADA'S MANY SCENIC AREAS IN ADDITION TO THE PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK, SUCH AS THE RUBY MOUNTAINS NEAR ELKO, THE SIERRA NEVADA NEAR RENO, THE VALLEY OF FIRE IN SOUTHERN NEVADA AND THE JARBIDGE WILDERNESS AREA IN NORTHEASTERN NEVADA.

A NATIONAL PARK IN THE WHEELER PEAK AREA IS NOT A NEW IDEA. THE AREA HAS LONG BEEN RECOGNIZED AS HAVING NATIONAL PARK POTENTIAL. THE CONCEPT WAS FIRST PROPOSED IN 1924 BY NEVADA SENATOR KEY PITTMAN BUT WAS DEFEATED BECAUSE OF OPPOSITION FROM MINING AND GRAZING INTERESTS.

(MORE)

IN 1955, NEVADA SENATORS ALAN BIBLE AND HOWARD CANNON AGAIN PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO CREATE A GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK. THE PROPOSAL WAS APPROVED BY THE SENATE, BUT FAILED IN THE HOUSE.

THIS TIME THE PARK PROPOSAL HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE LOWER HOUSE, BUT NEEDS THE SUPPORT OF THE SENATE. I URGE THE SENATE TO ONCE AGAIN SHOW THE FORESIGHT AND VISION IT HAD TWO DECADES AGO WHEN IT APPROVED THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR NEVADA TO JOIN THE RANKS OF STATES THAT HAVE A NATIONAL PARK. THANK YOU.

Senator Hecht. Thank you. Please convey to the Governor my thanks for giving testimony for this hearing.

Mr. Richer. I certainly will.

Senator Hecht. Mr. Ferrel Hansen, White Pine Chamber of Commerce.

STATEMENT OF FERREL HANSEN, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, WHITE PINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ELY, NV

Mr. Hansen. Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak.

For the record, my name is Ferrel Hansen. I am here representing the White Pine Chamber of Commerce in Ely, NV.

Senator Hecht. Excuse me, Ferrel. Would you mind? Could we recognize Senator Hollings?

Senator Hollings. Let's wait on Senator Thurmond.

Senator Hecht. You want to wait on Senator Thurmond?

Senator Hollings. Yes.

Senator Hecht. I'm sorry Ferrel, I did not want to hold up the Senator from his busy schedule, but he wants to wait for Senator Thurmond. So please continue.

Mr. Hansen. Again, my name is Ferrel Hansen. I am here representing the White Pine Chamber of Commerce in Ely, NV, the county in which the Great Basin National Park will be created. I have brought with me today for entry into the record many letters of support from residents and organizations of Nevada and Utah. These represent, and I can honestly say that these letters show overwhelming support for this park in the areas of eastern Nevada and western Utah.

Nevada is the only Western State without a national park. More important, the Great Basin is the only ecosystem in our country that is not represented by a national park. In a 1981 report by the Department of the Interior entitled "Study of Alternatives: Great Basin National Park," it clearly indicates that the South Snake Division of the Humboldt National Forest is the choice area to represent this ecosystem. It is time to preserve this area for all future generations of Americans to see and enjoy.

The effort to establish this park in the Mount Wheeler area of Nevada is more than 60 years old. Now, with your support, it will become a reality. This creation will give a much-needed boost to the economic depression of White Pine County and help make it a destination tourist area of our country.

An estimated 200,000 visitors will spend an average of $55 daily in the local economy. Compare this to the 38,000 visitors who visited Lehman Caves in 1984 and you can see that there are economic benefits that will accrue.

Another key point is that the national park in Nevada will go hand in hand with our State's principal industry, which is tourism. A park means increased tourism. Nevadans are overwhelmingly in support of this park because they would rather be known for it than nuclear waste disposal areas.

Because of our mining and agricultural heritage, we would also like to see the rights and privileges established for the mining and agricultural sectors preserved. The park as proposed in S. 2506 will in some respects impact the grazing allotments of three producers unless their privileges are preserved.

The overriding need to preserve the area is only equaled by the need to create the park in a size that will incorporate within its boundaries those features which make it unique and beautiful. Those have been expanded upon many times in previous testimony.

Also important to the creation of the park is that it be a manageable area. Capital improvements, both those existing and other designated areas for future expansion, need to be included in any park legislation. Giving these features proper consideration when planning boundaries will preclude the need for future park expansion, an issue that would be opposed bitterly by some residents of our county.

The debate in White Pine County, NV, and surrounding the Great Basin National Park issue has been a long one. It is now time for all of us to get down to the business of deciding upon the specific elements of the park. We are now at a critical crossroads that will determine the very existence of the park. These crossroads are the reaching of an agreeable size between the Senate and the House of Representatives.

If there is not a solution to this in this session of Congress, we see this as a potential fatal flaw in the obtaining of a park for White Pine County. Do this not only for White Pine County but for everyone, including future generations of Americans.

S. 2506 is a good bill and is written with the best interests of America in mind. If this committee has those interests at heart, you will recommend passage by the Senate and will work diligently to see that the question of size is resolved soon so the Park Service can begin preparing the area to receive all future generations of Americans.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on behalf of myself, the White Pine Chamber of Commerce, and the 69 percent of Nevadans who want the Great Basin National Park to shine as a crown jewel of our State.

[The letters submitted by Mr. Hansen follow:]

WHITE PINE COUNTY FAIR AND RECREATION BOARD
P.O. BOX 958 ELY, NEVADA 89301 PHONE 289-3720

February 10, 1986

HONORABLE CHIC HECHT
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washing, D.C. 20510

Re: Public Hearing on the Great Basin National Park
Title II, H.R. 3302

Dear Senator Hecht:

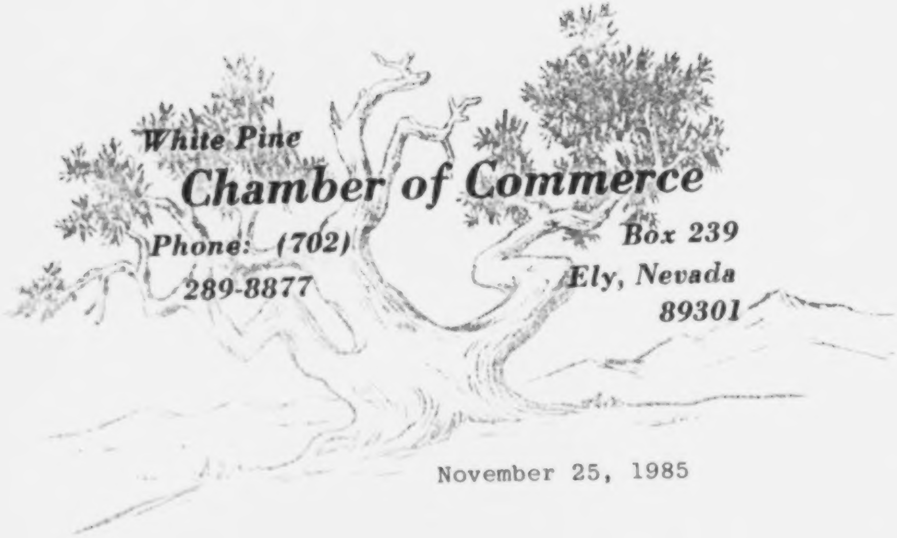
It is the feeling of the Fair & Recreation Board of White Pine County, Nevada that if faced with the choice of a National Park or a Wilderness Area at the Mount Wheeler Peak area, the Board is in favor of a National Park.

This motion was voted on and approved at the White Pine County Fair and Recreation Board meeting of 11-19-85.

Sincerely,

Marcia Warne, Secretary
for Ed Spear, Chairman
White Pine County Fair & Recreation Board

/mw



White Pine
Chamber of Commerce
Phone: (702)
289-8877
Box 239
Ely, Nevada
89301

November 25, 1985

Dear Congressman Vento:

The White Pine Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee goes on record supporting the creation of the Great Basin National Park. We feel the National Park would be a great tourist attraction for White Pine County and the State of Nevada.

The State of Nevada Tourism Commission has targeted rural Nevada to develop tourism. Our chance of developing industry is slim; we see our our best chance of economic development through tourism. The Great Basin National Park would give the State Tourism Commission a big plus to work with.

We would not have a sudden impact to deal with, but a steady growth that we could adjust to in an orderly manner, and blend into our present economy of the area.

We feel the uniqueness of the area has long been overlooked as a potential National Park. We hope our Washington representatives see fit to give us the long awaited National Park that will preserve and utilize the area for everyone, not just a select few.

Sincerely,

J.M. Bybee
Chairman, White Pine Chamber
Tourism Committee

JMB/la

VALLEY BANK
& TRUST COMPANY
348 WEST MAIN, P.O. BOX 340 DELTA, UTAH 84624
(801) 864-3811

February 26, 1986

The Honorable Chic Hecht
United States Senator
302 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hecht:

I wish to express my support for the creation of the Great Basin National Park.

Just last week, I visited the area including the Lehman Caves and am very impressed with the unspoiled beauty which should be available to everyone. I see a National Park status as a hedge against the demands of those individuals who would lock up our resources making them available to only the affluent who have the time and money to visit remote wilderness areas.

As manager of a major bank serving the contiguous Utah area, we feel strongly that National Park legislation must protect existing grazing permit rights, water rights and private property within the boundaries and contiguous areas to the proposed park.

A park boundary should be just as denoted - a boundary. I wish to enter my objection to any "vistas" which treat non park property as if it were in fact a portion of the park and thereby precluding resource development outside park boundary. The area needs both the scenic park and economic development of any untapped resources.

Sincerely,

Russell M. Wilson
Asst. Vice Pres/Mgr.

RMW/ptw

Landmark
HOTEL AND CASINO
LAS VEGAS

February 11, 1986

Ferrel D. Hansen, Executive Vice President
White Pine Chamber of Commerce
Box 239
Ely, NV 89301

Dear Ferrel:

I am very pleased to be able to take this opportunity to share my enthusiastic feelings about the proposed Great Basin National Park. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the hearings but I do hope my written comments will be included in the record as a firm advocate of such a park.

I have had the opportunity to reside in this great state of Nevada for almost fifty years. I feel obliged to share the pride I feel for the history and lore of this great state with all Nevadans and visitors to this state as well. The proposed Great Basin National Park will be another source of state pride to be shared by all.

The proposed Great Basin National Park will help to show tourists, students and the curious about the variety of fauna, plant and animal life, mineral and geological formations found only in the Silver State. A state which publicly is known for little more than gaming, an abundance of desert and the Test Site, can well use such deserved recognition as another tool in the ever-growing process of selling this state to the world. Although tourism and gaming are together an intricate part of the Nevada economy, I cannot help but believe this national park will increase the volume and flow of traffic throughout this state and increase revenues and interest proportionally.

The proposals made in H.R. 3302 regarding the Great Basin National Park, are good for the entire state of Nevada. I therefore must wholeheartedly endorse and support this proposal and encourage any efforts at securing its passage. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

With best wishes, I am

William W. Morris
WILLIAM W. MORRIS

364 CONVENTION CENTER DR. LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89109 (702) 733-1110

CITY OF ELY NEVADA
501 MILL STREET P.O. BOX 299 ELY,NEVADA 89301 (702) 289-2430

February 10, 1986

The Honorable Chick Hecht
304 Hart Office Building
Washington D.C.

Dear Senator Hecht:

In 1960 the proposal for the Great Basin National Park was defeated. At that time the convincing arguments against the Park where the same as those against it today:

1) Mining would be destroyed.
2) Grazing would be abolished.
3) The economic value of the Park was being overstated by those for it.

Now, 25 years later, what are the facts.

Today the population of White Pine County is 7,640, in 1960 it was 9,808.

In 1960 the mining work force was 1,411, today less than 400.

Agriculture work force in 1960 was 227, now 150.

So, some conclusions. The Great Basin National Park was defeated in 1960 with the promise that it's creation would ruin mining and agriculture. But what are the facts. In the 25 years since, mining has decreased by over 1,000 jobs, agriculture has declined by 77 jobs and the county has lost 2,168 citizens. The economic plight of this area has been well documented. The mining and agriculture have indeed declined without the Great Basin National Park to bother them. Now is the time for a change. The City Council of Ely feels that the Great Basin National Park will be of economic value to Ely and to White County, therefore, the Council unanimously supports its creation.

The combination of the White Pine Historical Railroad Steam Engine and the Great Basin National Park can make White Pine County a major destination tourist attraction.

Sincerely,

Barlow N. White, Mayor
City of Ely

Edwin Spear - Councilman
Dorothy Phillips - Councilwoman
Carl Stanek - Councilman
Harry Johnson- Councilman
Oren Pollock- Councilman

WHITE PINE COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE
ELY, NEVADA 89301
P.O. Box 604

Honorable Chic Hecht
Hart Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Hecht:

A special meeting of the White Pine Co. Democratic Central Committee was convened on January 29, 1986 at Ely, Nevada. The proposed National Park at Mt. Wheeler was one of the subjects discussed and a poll was taken. There were no dissenting votes.

We believe that a great majority of the voters in this county look favorably on the establishment of a National Park here. The benefits would extend not only to our depressed community but to the entire state as well as the nation. It would also alleviate the crowded conditions in the existing National Parks and help preserve the Bristlecone Pines, Lehman Caves and other natural wonders in this area.

Sincerely,

Louis Butterman, Chairman

Marshall Coopersmith, Vice-Chairman

cc: Senator Laxalt
Congresswoman Vucanovich
Congressman Reid
Governor Bryan

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK
AND PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREA

PIOCHE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
COMMENTS

The Pioche Chamber of Commerce has voted unanimously to support the proposed Great Basin National Park.

In our view a National Park in Nevada is not only appropriate but long overdue. Nevada has a long history of service to our nation as a result of our support of military installations and research facilities. It is therefore fitting that such service be recognized and balanced by a National Park.

Further, the Wheeler Peak area of White Pine County is emminently suitable for such a park. The natural scenic beauty and ready accessability of much of the area lends itself well to the establishment of camp sites and picnic areas as well as hiking trails and the like.

Such a facility would enable everyone; young and old, the disabled as will as the physically fit, to enjoy our natural wonders.

In the instance of the proposed wilderness, we are somewhat less enthused.

It is the concensus of opinion in the Pioche Chamber that a wilderness area would benefit an extremely small percentage of the population while placing a burden on the residents of Eastern rural Nevada.

In Lincoln County nearly 96% of our land is government owned or controlled. A similar situation exists in White Pine County. It is our feeling that the continued withdrawal of Nevada lands from multiple/public use must come to a halt. At the very least, the most conservative approach must be utilized.

Great Basin National Park
And Proposed Wilderness Area

Pioche Chamber of Commerce Comments

Page 2 of 2

Our ranching and mining are severly threatened by, what can only be described as, indiscriminate land grabbing while incurring the steady decline of a viable tax base.

Such disregard for the economic stability of areas of severe depression such as White Pine and Lincoln Counties is inconsistent with the kind of responsible government the citizens of our country expect and are entitled to.

We are, however, realistic enough to realize that the status quo; i.e., no wilderness, is no longer a consideration. We will have a wilderness area regardless of whether we want one or not.

That being the case, we will consider supporting only the smallest possible acreage, such as described in the bill proposed by Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Representative Vucanovitch. This support, however is contingent upon a National Park in the White Pine County area being incorporated into the wilderness proposal.

There are economic benefits to be derived from a National Park for the local communities. There are none in a wilderness area. Therefore we request that you do not burden those of your constituency least able to bear such weight, with large withdrawals of lands from our use and economy.

Thank you for your time and attention.

PIOCHE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Mary Louise Christian
Mary Louise Christian
President

FLAMINGO HILTON & TOWER

Horst Dziura, Vice President and General Manager

January 17, 1986

The Honorable Harry Reid
Member of Congress
Longworth House Building
Room 1530
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Reid:

Nevada is a great State, and of course, all of us are interested in making it even greater.

I am in favor of the Great Basin National Park amendment to H.R. 3302, and I look forward to receiving your support of this legislation.

Sincerely,

FLAMINGO HILTON AND TOWER

Horst Dziura
Vice President and General Manager

HD:mlm

bcc: Ferrel D. Hansen
White Pine Chamber of
Commerce

UNION PLAZA HOTEL AND CASINO

FRANK E. SCOTT
Chairman of the Board

January 20, 1986

Mr. Ferrel D. Hansen
Executive Vice President
WHITE PINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Box 239
Ely, Nevada 89301

Dear Mr. Hansen:

I received your letter dated January 10, 1986 in which you were asking for our support to help pass through legislation Nevada's first Wilderness National Park.

This is to advise you that we certainly would support this project as we well know the importance of that first rate attraction.

I would appreciate your sending on to us the location of this proposed Great Basin National Park and the area that it covers in order to establish a better understanding of the attraction.

Thank you for briefing us on this issue and I assure you that we will give you all the cooperation we possibly can.

Very truly yours,

Frank E Scott

Frank E. Scott

FES:ns

RENO HILTON

Donald J Devoto
Vice President and Managing Director

January 20, 1986

The Honorable Chic Hecht
U.S. Senator for Nevada
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Hecht:

I think we all realize how long overdue it is for our great State of Nevada to have a National Park. I realize there is some difference of opinion as to how the Park should be established, but the main point I want to emphasize is a National Park would be a long overdue essential asset to our State.

Therefore, in the months ahead when this subject again receives your attention, I would strongly urge your support in making the first National Park system for the State of Nevada a reality during this calendar year.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Devoto

DJD/lls

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK FOR THE SOUTH SNAKE DIVISION OF THE HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST

WHEREAS, Nevada does not currently have a National Park as all other western states do, and

WHEREAS, the South Snake Division of the Humboldt National Forest exhibits areas with distinct National Park qualities and characteristics, and

WHEREAS, the economic benefit of the creation of a National Park would be a benefit to the local, state and national economies, and

WHEREAS, H.R. 3304 has been amended to include the establishment of a Great Basin National Park, and

WHEREAS, H.R. 3304 would eliminate the reality of this same area becoming wilderness, with little or no economic benefit to the local, state and national economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the CEDAR CITY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE supports the creation of a Great Basin National Park as proposed in H.R. 3304.

President

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK FOR THE SOUTH SNAKE DIVISION OF THE HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST

WHEREAS, Nevada does not currently have a National Park as all other western states do, and

WHEREAS, the South Snake Division of the Humboldt National Forest exhibits areas with distinct National Park qualities and characteristics, and

WHEREAS, the economic benefit of the creation of a National Park would be a benefit to the local, state and national economies, and

WHEREAS, H.R. 330[illegible] has been amended to include the establishment of a Great Basin National Park, and

WHEREAS, H.R. 330[illegible] would eliminate the reality of this same area becoming wilderness, with little or no economic benefit to the local, state and national economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the [illegible] area Chamber of Commerce supports the creation of a Great Basin National Park as proposed in H.R. 330[illegible].

Dick [illegible]
President
19 Feb, 1986

A RESOLUTION SUPORTING THE CREATION OF THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK FOR THE SOUTH SNAKE DIVISION OF THE HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST

WHEREAS, Nevada does not currently have a National Park as all other western states do, and

WHEREAS, the South Snake Division of the Humboldt National Forest exhibits areas with distinct National Park qualities and characteristics, and

WHEREAS, western Utah's economy is based largely on farming, which has been depressed for many years, we feel the creation of a National Park would be of great benefit to the local Delta, Utah and national economies, and

WHEREAS, United States highway 6-50 does go from east to west and is a viable route from the east coast to the west coast, and

WHEREAS, Millard County, Utah and White Pine County, Nevada are both isolated rural areas receivig little or no benefit from tourism generated by traffic on Interstate 15 or Interstate 80, and

WHEREAS, western Utah has no designated destination points, the creation of a National Park would provide a nuch needed destination point, and

WHEREAS, the creation of said park would increase tourism in western Utah, which we believe to be one of our most promising industries, and

WHEREAS, we have a strong alliance with White Pine County, Nevada, and

WHEREAS, H.R. 3302 has been amended to include the establishment of a Great Basin National Park, and

WHEREAS, H.R. 3302 would elimlinate the reality of this same area becoming wilderness, with little or no economic benefit to the local, state and national economies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DELTA BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION supports the creation of a Great Basin National Park as proposed in H.R. 3302, and would strongly urge protective legislation for the private property, water, and special permit rights now held within the proposed park area.

DATED THIS 21st DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1986

Bruce Curtis

BRUCE CURTIS, CHAIRMAN

Get Sunkissed in St. George

St. George Area
Chamber of Commerce

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK FOR THE SOUTH SNAKE DIVISION OF THE HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST

WHERAS, Nevada does not currently have a National Park as all other western states do, and

WHEREAS, the South Snake Division of the Humboldt National Forest exhibits areas with distinct National Park qualities and characteristics, and

WHEREAS, the economic benefit of the creation of a National Park would be a benefit to the local, state and national economies, and

WHEREAS, H.R. 3304 has been amended to include the establishment of a Great Basin National Park, and

WHEREAS, H.R. 3304 would eliminate the reality of this same area becoming wilderness, with little or no economic benefit to the local, state and national economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESLOVED that the St. George Area Chamber of Commerce supports the creation of a Great Basin National Park as proposed in H.R. 3304.

R. Mark Walter
President/Chairman of the Board

• 97 East St. George Blvd. • St. George, Utah 84770 • Tele: (801) 628-1658 •

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK FOR THE SOUTH SNAKE DIVISION OF THE HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST

WHEREAS, Nevada does not currently have a National Park as all other western states do, and

WHEREAS, the South Snake Division of the Humboldt National Forest exhibits areas with distinct National Park qualities and characteristics, and

WHEREAS, the economic benefit of the creation of a National Park would be a benefit to the local, state and national economies, and

WHEREAS, H.R. 3304 has been amended to include the establishment of a Great Basin National Park, and

WHEREAS, H.R. 3304 would eliminate the reality of this same area becoming wilderness, with little or no economic benefit to the local, state and national economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fillmore (Utah) Area Chamber of Commerce supports the creation of a Great Basin National Park as proposed in H.R. 3304.

Duane [illegible]
President

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK FOR THE SOUTH SNAKE DIVISION OF THE HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST

WHEREAS, Nevada does not currently have a National Park as all other western states do, and

WHEREAS, the South Snake Division of the Humboldt National Forest exhibits areas with distinct National Park qualities and characteristics, and

WHEREAS, the economic benefit of the creation of a National Park would be a benefit to the local, state and national economies, and

WHEREAS, H.R. 3304 has been amended to include the establishment of a Great Basin National Park, and

WHEREAS, H.R. 3304 would eliminate the reality of this same area becoming wilderness, with little or no economic benefit to the local, state and national economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the GREATER AUSTIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE supports the creation of a Great Basin National Park as proposed in H.R. 3304.

Bert Lewis
President

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK FOR THE SOUTH SNAKE DIVISION OF THE HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST

WHEREAS, Nevada does not currently have a National Park as all other western states do, and

WHEREAS, the South Snake Division of the Humboldt National Forest exhibits areas with distinct National Park qualities and characteristics, and

WHEREAS, the economic benefit of the creation of a National Park would be a benefit to the local, state and national economies, and

WHEREAS, H.R. 3304 has been amended to include the establishment of a Great Basin National Park, and

WHEREAS, H.R. 3304 would eliminate the reality of this same area becoming wilderness, with little or no economic benefit to the local, state and national economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Magna Chamber of Commerce supports the creation of a Great Basin National Park as proposed in H.R. 3304.

Charles Paris

President Charles (Chick) Paris

Senator HECHT. Ferrel, thank you very much. You are right on the button. How did you time it so perfectly?

Mr. HANSEN. Luck. [Laughter.]

Senator HECHT. Our next witness is a fellow retailer from Ely, Mr. Art Olson.

STATEMENT OF ART OLSON, ELY, NV

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Chairman, members of this Senate committee, my name is Art Olson. I am a pharmacist and an independent drug store owner in Ely, NV.

I have been a resident of White Pine County for the past 27 years. My remarks today reflect personal feelings. I do not reflect, formally, feelings of any group.

It was my opportunity to serve on the proposed Great Basin National Park Study Committee of the White Pine Chamber of Commerce of Ely, NV. Committee membership included representatives from mining, grazing, business, and the town of Baker which is adjacent to the proposed park. This study committee recommended favorable consideration of a national park in White Pine County. This same conceptual endorsement has been expressed to you today from the city of Ely by our mayor, and from the board of county commissioners by letter attached to my comments today.

A great deal of local emotion has been generated in our county over the proposed park, emotion that has both clouded and distorted facts. Transcripts of hearings conducted in Ely by you, Senator Hecht, by Representative Bruce Vento, and numerous State agencies will attest to this.

Grazing and mining have historically been mainstays in our county's economy. The past few years records a drastic reduction in their status. Opponents of the proposed park would lead us to believe that we would cripple the existing mining and grazing industry of White Pine County if a park were established. Let me list some facts important to this consideration:

Concerning grazing: Senate bill 2506 would establish a 44,000 acre park, the area of which includes less than four-tenths of 1 percent of our total county AUM's. Add to this the bill's provisions for discretionary permit grazing and grazing rights exchange and you have minimal impact to grazing.

No. 2, concerning mining: Much has been heralded about the potential mineral resources of this area. Much was said about them 25 years ago when a national park was last proposed. At that time, convincing claims were made concerning vast mineral resources of this area and the existence of the world's largest deposit of beryllium. We bought that story at that time. We scrubbed the park plans, and we waited. Over two decades have passed. Records of either the Forest Service or the University of Nevada School of Mines fail to reflect any substantial mining activity in these areas beyond that necessary to maintain claim status.

Two questions arise. Do these great mineral reserves exist? If so, why were they not developed?

The only thing certain is that the mining activity in the proposed Great Basin National Park area exhibits the classic "Sleeping Beauty" phenomena. It lies dormant until kissed by the threat of a proposed national park.

The Great Basin National Park of the Western United States is deserving of representation in the National Park System. An Interior Department study conducted 7 years ago indicated the Humboldt National Forest was prime representation of the Great Basin containing 19 themes that make this area unique and of national park quality.

I strongly support creation of the Great Basin National Park. I would however submit one suggestion. In your final determination it is important that the proposal include all the unique features of this area such as bristlecone forests, alpine lakes, glaciers, Mount Wheeler, cave systems, and historical features of the area. The last thing that we as a neighboring community in this park want to face is the turmoil and emotion that would be created by any future plan of park expansion. Let us be certain it is completed and complete, first.

Senators, it is an obligation of government to administer public lands in the best interests of the general public. Future generations will best judge this effort. National Park status of the Mount Wheeler/Lehman Caves area is both deserving and overdue.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

[A letter for the record submitted by Mr. Olson follows:]

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
WHITE PINE COUNTY,
Ely, NV, July 15, 1986.

Hon. CHIC HECHT,
Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, Reserved Water, and Resource Conservation, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR HECHT. The White Pine County Board of County Commissioners voted three to two to support the creation of the Great Basin National Park. We believe that the Lehman Caves/Wheeler Peak area will provide a valuable addition to the National Park System, and the increased tourism it will bring will provide substantial economic benefit for White Pine County and the State of Nevada.

In its deliberations on the proposed bill, we hope the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, Reserved Water and Resource Conservation will give due consideration to:

1. The need to balance adequate acreage for the Park with the protection of mining and grazing activities; and
2. The need to study all potential impacts on the surrounding area (particularly the infra-structure of the community of Baker, Nevada, which is adjacent to the proposed Park site).

This is a matter of vital importance to all residents of White Pine County, and the Board of County Commissioners appreciates your consideration of our interests and concerns.

Sincerely,

JOHN, S. LAMPROS, *Chairman.*

Senator HECHT. Thank you, Art.

I have to ask one question of you. Does Mr. Broadbent support this proposal?

Mr. OLSON. Bob Broadbent did for the past 30 years.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. I had to put that in the record.

Mr. OLSON. And I am glad you did, sir.

Senator HECHT. Thank you all very much for appearing.

Senator Hollings, do you want to testify, or do you want to wait for Senator Thurmond?

Senator HOLLINGS. We can wait 10 or 15 minutes.

Senator HECHT. Well, let me go on, and the minute he walks in we will stop. Fair enough?

Senator HOLLINGS. Yes, sir. I appreciate that, Mr. Chairman.

Senator HECHT. OK, Mr. Dave Fulstone, president, Nevada Farm Bureau, and Mr. Owen Gondor, Utah Farm Bureau.

While Dave Fulstone is coming up, I have to tell everyone in the audience that he also has another title. He is executive chef to the President of the United States. When Paul Laxalt has his lambfest, Dave flies the lamb in from Nevada and cooks it. So that is his other title.

Which are you representing today? The executive chef to the President, or the Farm Bureau?

Mr. FULSTONE. I am representing the Farm Bureau and the Ranchers of the State of Nevada today, Senator.

Senator HECHT. Please continue, Dave.

STATEMENT OF DAVID H. FULSTONE II, PRESIDENT, NEVADA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION, SPARKS, NV

Mr. FULSTONE. Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and committee members. I am David Fulstone, president of the Nevada Farm Bureau. I am a fifth generation Nevada rancher. My family has been involved in the ranching and grazing business since 1858 in the State of Nevada.

The members of the Nevada Farm Bureau oppose the creation of the park for the following reasons:

First, we believe in the multiple-use concept. To start with the stockmen, a number of them would probably lose their grazing allotments in this excellent grazing area, and perhaps their ranches since the allotments form the backbone of their economic unit.

Include the hunters who have been harvesting scores of mule deer in this fine sportsmen area each year for many years, as well as fishermen who would have to settle for the scrawny native species of trout in an unenhanced fishery.

Miners would be excluded, of course, as would the post, wood, and Christmas tree cutters who have been using this area for years. Four wheelers would have to go, and so probably would the picnickers who now have the use of several campgrounds provided by the U.S. Forest Service.

The biggest loss of all, Senator, is another huge chunk of Nevada which would be chipped away from the multiple-use classification that has been so well tested over a century of use and which has served the Nation so well down through the years.

Added to the many other segments that have already been chewed away and those that are in the process of being put in special use categories, you begin to see the amount of Nevada that is left in its traditional free-access state is beginning to dwindle drastically.

Second, it is not deserving of national park status, at least no more deserving of this designation than 50 or 100 other places around the State.

The conifer forests which cover most of the area that would be included in the park boundaries are highly unusual in the Great Basin as are its alpine lakes, rock, and snow glaciers, bristlecone pines, and limestone caverns. Such a park, it could be argued, might be more representative of conditions in Alaska than those of the Great Basin.

There is also a notable omission in this plan. No self-respecting Great Basin National Park if it were to truly represent natural conditions would be complete without a huge, graceful, alluvial fan or two and a great valley of sage fading off into infinity, plus at least one dry lake with dancing dust devils.

Even if the objective were to select the most spectacular features of the area, the Wheeler Peak does not necessarily measure up, though admittedly spectacular.

Other locations around the basin are equally noteworthy. For my money, the Ruby Mountains with their incredible glacier canyons as well as most of the features present at Mount Wheeler are more durably compelling. Other areas of the Sierras, the Toiyabes, the Monitors, the Shells, the Spring Mountains are highly awe inspiring.

Third, the proposal for this park is for all the wrong reasons. Most of the support has been for economic reasons. Truly eastern Nevada is suffering a terrible recession and many feel that a national park will cure all financial woes. To the contrary, it may do just the reverse as it has done in neighboring Utah. The creation of Canyon Lands and Capital Reef Park certainly did not bring the hordes of tourists to those areas. In fact, it has further depressed their economy.

In conclusion, the creation of the Great Basin National Park would be a giant step backwards. The public would lose another hunting, fishing, and recreation area, stockmen would eventually be forced out, local businesses would suffer, and the U.S. Government would have another facility with not enough funds to maintain it adequately. A national park should be considered for all the right reasons, not all the wrong reasons, and I would like to interject one more comment.

You know, whether you are dealing with one family with a grazing permit or 10 in the State of Nevada, I still think there should be heavy consideration on those people's history. Many of them have been there for four or five generations, have settled that area, and have carved out a living and have helped the economy of that area, and I think that one or two grazing permitees are just as important as all of us together in Nevada, and I think that should be of the utmost consideration in considering this national park.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much for testifying.

Mr. Gondor, would you mind stepping back and letting our distinguished Senators testify, and then we will get right back with you?

Excuse me, Dave. Would you mind stepping back, please?

Senator Thurmond, we are happy to welcome you here today, and we await your testimony.

Senator THURMOND. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I deeply appreciate it. I had to go to the dentist this morning and I just got back.

Senator HECHT. Better you than me. [Laughter.]

Senator THURMOND. Senator Hollings is from Charleston, and this matter concerns his home city, so I presume it would be proper for him to go first.

Senator HOLLINGS. Well, I appreciate the courtesy of my distinguished senior colleague.

Senator THURMOND. Excuse me just a minute.

I did want to introduce Mayor Riley, who is the able and distinguished Mayor of Charleston.

Senator HECHT. He has testified before us.

Senator THURMOND. Excuse me.

Senator HECHT. He was very eloquent.

Senator HOLLINGS. Mr. George Campsen here who is the operator or concessionaire—he has all kinds of titles.

Senator THURMOND. And Mr. Brian Varnado of the Park Service.

Senator HECHT. Senator Hollings.

STATEMENT OF HON. ERNEST F. HOLLINGS, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Senator HOLLINGS. I thank the distinguished chairman. You have been very indulgent, and I appreciate the courtesy of my senior colleague.

Mr. Chairman, I will ask that my full statement be included in the record.

Senator HECHT. It will be included in the record.

Senator HOLLINGS. I will just sum up.

This started some 10 years ago in 1976 when we determined that the tour boat facility serving Fort Sumter, the National Park Monument there, should be moved from the city marina to a better location. So at that particular time I secured in the Appropriations Committee an appropriation of $5.581 million for a new dock; but the Park Service was tending toward the foot of Broad Street, which did not fit in with the overall planning of the development both of the transportation in the downtown area.

Our city of Charleston is known nationally now for its historic character and development and preservation in that development. Our distinguished mayor is the head of all the mayors' municipal association, and more particularly just received down at the conference in Puerto Rico the civil liveability award for this outstanding work in that regard.

So we held up. Four years later in 1982 we provided $368,000 to acquire the Fleet Landing site, which was on the east side of the city peninsula there, and the city and the Park Service finally got to an agreement on that Fleet Landing site, but it did not fit the needs of the operator and he resisted, and I understand he had resistance and misgivings at that particular time.

Now, over the years, we have finally negotiated. I think time does solve all problems, because the operator, Mr. George Campsen, and Mayor Riley, and all interested historic preservation society and everyone interested in that community in the proper development of our historic section and carrying of the tourist trade have now gotten really a first-rate kind of development planned down by the dockside at the foot of Calhoun Street.

This includes a city marina, a city marine science museum, an aquarium, and a restaurant. It will connect us with Fort Sumter, which is the principal purpose of the operator and the principal interest obviously of our Park Service, and also to Patriot's Point which has developed now into a national naval museum.

I have told you about my Mayor. The operator, Mr. George Campsen, has really done an outstanding job. He came in some years back and not only improved the facilities there, but invested a fortune in new boats and everything else of that kind, and the entire community is very proud of the way he has taken on his civic responsibility as well as the contract with the Park Service to provide the best for the traveling public, those who visit and tour there.

So I heartily endorse this particular authorizing legislation. I impress upon the chairman and our committee members that time is of the essence. It has been over 10 years. Now that we have it all fit together, we are getting near the end of the session. We are not trying to preempt or get ahead. We want this kind of authorization so we can move it on through the Congress.

[The prepared statement of Senator Hollings follows:]

STATEMENT OF SENATOR ERNEST F. HOLLINGS

Dock for Fort Sumter Tour Boat

Mr. Chairman, it is a great pleasure to join my senior colleague in testifying to the urgent need for enactment of S. 2534 before Congress adjourns. This bill will grant the necessary legislative authority to the agreement worked out by the National Park Service, the City of Charleston, and the oeprator of the Fort Sumter Tourboat with regard to location of the dock for the tourboat. I appreciate your scheduling this hearing. This has, admittedly, been a long struggle, but now that we have finally secured agreement among the three parties, I urge the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to move quickly on this bill. The situation in Charleston has become critical since the present tourboat dock lies close by the impending construction of the new James Island Bridge.

As the Committee will recall, in 1976 it was determined that the tourboat should be moved from the City Marina to a better location. In 1978 I secured the appropriation of $5,581,000 for a new dock. Later we enacted a rider to delay that appropriation due to a dispute with the National Park Service who had proposed a Broad Street location of the facility. The City of Charleston preferred a location at the Fleet Landing Site in connection with the development of new tourist facilities. In 1980, the City and the Park Service came to agreement on utilizing the former Fleet Landing Site and Congress enacted my amendment as part of Public Law 96-199 authorizing the purchase of the Fleet Landing Site. In late 1982 we provided $368,000 to acquire the Fleet Landing Site.

However, the operator of the tourboats was not part of that agreement and in the ensuing years, we have seen several additional sites proposed and rejected by the various parties. Finally they have now all come to agreement on a site adjacent to the Dockside II condominiums development.

Not only do we have the three interests in agreement, but as sometimes happens when things are delayed, we have a better location for the tourboat facility. Furthermore, we will have

-MORE-

July 18, 1986

A SUPERIOR PROJECT IN THAT IT WILL BE CONTIGIOUS TO A PROPOSEED CITY MARINE SCIENCE MUSEUM, OR AQUARIUM AND A RESTAURANT THAT WILL PROVIDE A MORE ENJOYABLE VISIT TO THE THOUSANDS OF PERSONS WHO VISIT FORT SUMTER EACH YEAR. THE NEW SITE IS MUCH MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE HIGHWAYS SERVING CHARLESTON AND WILL PROVIDE SUFFICIENT PARKING FOR CARS AND BUSES. IN ADDITION THE CITY WILL PROVIDE SHUTTLE SERVICE TO HISTORIC CHARLESTON AND THE COOPER RIVER LOCATION WILL ENABLE THE TOURBOATS TO STOP AT PATRIOTS POINT. THE CONCEPT AND LOCATION FOR THE NEW FACILITY HAS BEEN WIDELY DISCUSSED AND ENDORSED BY THE LOCAL MEDIA, CITIZENS, COMMITTEES, AND PRESERVATION GROUPS.

MR. CHAIRMAN, THIS FACILITY IS NOT NEW TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, RESERVED WATER AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION. CHARLESTON IS A UNIQUE CITY AND IN THE LONG STRUGGLE TO LOCATE THE TOURBOAT FACILITY, WE HAVE ALWAYS KEPT UPPER MOST IN OUR MINDS OUR GREAT TRADITION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION. MAYOR RILEY HAS MAINTAINED THAT TRADITION WHILE PROVIDING OUTSTANDING ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN CHARLESTON. HE JUST RECEIVED THE CITY LIVABILITY AWARD WHICH IS JUST ANOTHER TRIBUTE TO CHARLESTON'S FIDELITY TO OUR HERITAGE. SIMILARILY, THE CITY HAS WORKED TO ACCOMMODATE THE EVER-INCREASING NUMBER OF VISITORS WITH AS LITTLE DISRUPTION AS POSSIBLE. THE DOCKSIDE II LOCATION CONFORMS TO THAT POLICY AND I COMMEND MAYOR RILEY, THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, AND MR. CAMPSON FOR WORKING OUT THIS PROPOSAL. THEY ARE WELL PREPARED TO PRESENT THE DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL.

THANKS AGAIN, MR. CHAIRMAN, FOR HOLDING THIS HEARING AND I HOPE OUR TESTIMONY WILL BE CONVINCING OF THE NEED FOR ENACTMENT OF S. 2534 BEFORE WE ADJOURN.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

Senator Thurmond.

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Chairman, if I could just add a historical note of interest that just occurred to me.

Senator HECHT. Yes.

Mr. RILEY. This is at the end of Calhoun Street, which was named after John C. Calhoun, one of the greatest Senators ever to serve. I think I am in company today with probably the two greatest Senators from South Carolina since John C. Calhoun. I just thought that historical observation should be noted for the record.

Senator HECHT. I would say, including John C. Calhoun. [Laughter.]

Senator Thurmond.

STATEMENT OF HON. STROM THURMOND, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Senator THURMOND. Thank you for your complimentary remarks, Mr. Chairman.

I am indeed honored to appear before you. You have done such a great job here in the Senate and made such an outstanding record.

Mr. Chairman, I understand that Mayor Riley may have to leave.

Mr. RILEY. Yes, sir.

Senator THURMOND. If you do, we will understand it.

Mr. RILEY. Thank you, sir.

Senator THURMOND. Mr. Chairman, it is a pleasure for me to testify this morning. I may duke you somewhat, but this is a matter that is so important that I feel like we ought to make an official statement for the record.

This legislation makes technical changes to existing public law relating to the Fort Sumter National Monument in Charleston, SC. Fort Sumter is one of the most historic landmarks in our Nation. If you have never been there, Mr. Chairman, sometime I want you to arrange to visit Charleston and visit Fort Sumter.

Each year, almost 180,000 tourists from throughout South Carolina and the Nation visit this unique fortress which stands on a small island at the mouth of the Charleston Harbor. It was at this fort that the first shots of the Civil War were fired when Union troops under the leadership of Maj. Robert Anderson refused to surrender Fort Sumter to Confederate Gen. Pierre Beauregard.

In 1948, Fort Sumter was designated a Civil War Memorial and it also became part of the National Park Service System. Since 1948, tens of thousands have been ferried in boats from the peninsula of Charleston to the Fortress Island. Despite the busy traffic between the city and the fort, the National Park Service has never had a permanent dock from which boats can launch to take visitors to and from the fort.

Instead, the Park Service has utilized space in the city marina for this purpose. This option will not be available within the next 2 years, however, as construction of an expressway is planned for the site where the boats currently launch. Recognizing the eventual need for a new location for the boat dock on the Charleston Peninsula, Congress in 1978 appropriated $5,581,000 as stated by my distinguished colleague, Senator Hollings, to construct an appropriate welcome center and boat dock at what is known as the Broad Street site.

This site was abandoned, however, when city officials persuaded the National Park Service that locating the dock at Broad Street would greatly inhibit and inconvenience the future growth of the tourist industry within the city. To remedy this situation, Congress in 1980 enacted legislation authorizing the National Park Service to purchase the fleet landing site. In 1982 Congress appropriated an additional $368,000 to pay for this property.

However, subsequent consideration of the fleet landing site revealed that each year a significant amount of money would be needed to dredge and maintain the boat dock area, making the site a poor investment for the Federal Government. Furthermore, locating the boat dock on this property would cause congestion in one of the most historic districts of Charleston.

Since 1982, the National Park Service has considered four other sites, but each one has been determined to be unacceptable. I am pleased to report, however, that the Park Service with the cooperation of the city of Charleston, and especially Mr. George Campsen who has done a fine job there, has finally identified a potential site known as the dockside II property which passes the test that the other sites failed.

It does not create a traffic congestion problem, and it would not require a significant amount of dredging. In addition, the local community highly endorses the dockside II site.

Mr. Chairman, I am confident that pursuing the dockside II site alternative is in the best interest of the Federal Government. I believe the American taxpayers would prefer to have a site with ample parking and low dredging costs. To affect this change in the Fort Sumter tour boat project, Senator Hollings and I have introduced S. 2534.

This legislation will allow a good portion of the money which was originally designated for the construction of the facility to be used instead for the acquisition of property. The changes were necessitated largely because the initial plans called for the acquisition of a much smaller parcel of land upon which a parking garage would be constructed.

In the revised plan, a larger parcel of land would be acquired. The new tract will be large enough to accommodate a flat, level parking area. As a result, an expensive parking area will not be required.

Mr. Chairman, in addition, this legislation would expand the 1978 law by allowing the city of Charleston to lease or purchase from the National Park Service a portion of the site upon which an aquatic museum could be built. I believe this museum would add greatly to the Fort Sumter facility, as visitors, especially school groups, would be able to combine the experience of an historic monument and an aquarium.

Furthermore, Mr. Chairman, this legislation would give the Park Service authority to grant and accept easements and covenants over the property. This provision would allow the Park Service to enter into agreements to share portions of the parking area with the city and other interested parties. In return, the city would perform routine services such as lawn maintenance, and refuse removal.

Of course any covenant or easement which the Park Service grants would be contingent upon strict compliance with National Park Service standards by the recipients.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to stress that all parties involved, the National Park Service, the city of Charleston, and others strongly support dockside II over all the other sites which have been considered. I am sure that Mayor Riley and Mr. Campson can testify to the fact that this piece of property is the only feasible piece of land left in Charleston which can adequately house the type of welcome center which the Fort Sumter National Monument deserves.

One final note. Mr. George Campsen, who has operated the Fort Sumter tour boat concession for the National Park Service since 1962—and that is 24 years ago—has played an important role in keeping the dockside II property available to the Park Service. In January Mr. Campsen purchased this property and, since that time, has assigned an option to the Park Service at no cost.

I am confident that Mr. Campsen could sell the dockside II property for a healthy profit if he were inclined, but because he is interested in ensuring that the Fort Sumter Monument Welcome Center be located in an appropriate location, he has resisted offers from developers interested in purchasing this property.

Mr. Campsen's good will cannot last forever, however, because of financial limitations. So I hope this subcommittee and the full committee will favorably consider this bill as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that S. 2534 will greatly improve the Fort Sumter tour boat project. This legislation will ensure convenient access to the Fort Sumter National Monument for many years to come. I urge my colleagues who serve on this subcommittee and the full committee to favorably report S. 2534 in the very near future.

[The prepared statement of Senator Thurmond follows:]

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (R-SC) BEFORE THE PUBLIC LANDS,RESERVED WATER AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONCERNING S. 2534, A BILL TO MAKE TECHNICAL CHANGES TO EXISTING PUBLIC LAW RELATING TO THE FORT SUMTER NATIONAL MONUMENT. SD-366, FRIDAY, JULY 18, 1986, 10:30 A.M.

Mr. Chairman: [Senator Chic Hecht (R-Nev.) acting for Senator Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.)]

It is a pleasure for me to testify this morning before the Subcommittee on Public Lands, Reserved Water and Resource Conservation to express my strong support for S. 2534, legislation which I, along with my colleague from South Carolina, Senator Hollings, introduced in the Senate on June 10th. This legislation makes technical changes to existing Public Law relating to the Fort Sumter National Monument in Charleston, South Carolina.

Fort Sumter is one of the most historic landmarks in our Nation, and each year almost 180,000 tourists from throughout South Carolina and the Nation visit this unique fortress which stands on a small island at the mouth of Charleston Harbor. It was at this fort that the first shots of the Civil War were fired, when Union troops under the leadership of Major Robert Anderson refused to surrender Fort Sumter to Confederate General Pierre Beauregard.

In 1948, Fort Sumter was designated a Civil War Memorial and also became part of the National Park Service System. Since 1948, tens of thousands have been ferried in boats from the Peninsula of Charleston to the fortress island.

Despite the busy traffic between the City and the fort, the National Park Service has never had a permanent dock from which boats can launch to take visitors to and from the fort. Instead, the Park Service has utilized space in the City marina for this purpose. This option will not be available within the next two years, however, as construction of an expressway is planned for the site where the boats currently launch.

Recognizing the eventual need for a new location for the boat dock on the Charleston Peninsula, Congress in 1978 appropriated $5,581,000 to construct an appropriate welcome center and boat dock at what is known as the Broad Street Site. This site was abandoned, however, when city officials pursuaded the National Park Service that locating the dock at Broad Street would greatly inhibit and inconvenience the future growth of the tourist industry within the City.

To remedy this situation, Congress in 1980 enacted legislation authorizing the National Park Service to purchase the Fleet Landing Site, and in 1982 Congress appropriated an additional $368,000 to pay for this property. However, subsequent consideration of the Fleet Landing Site revealed that each year a significant amount of money would be needed to dredge and maintain the boat dock area, making the site a poor investment for the Federal government. Furthermore, locating the boat dock on this property would cause congestion in one of the most historic districts of Charleston. Since 1982, the National Park Service has considered four other sites, but each one has been determined to be unacceptable.

I am pleased to report, however, that the Park Service, with the cooperation of the City of Charleston and especially Mr. George Campsen, has finally identified a potential site known as the

Dockside II property, which passes the tests that the other sites failed - it does not create a traffic congestion problem and it would not require a significant amount of dredging. In addition, the local community highly endorses the Dockside II site.

Mr. Chairman, I am confident that pursuing the Dockside II site alternative is in the best interest of the Federal Government. I believe the American taxpayers would prefer to have a site with ample parking and little dredging costs. To affect this change in the Fort Sumter Tour Boat Project, Senator Hollings and I have introduced S. 2534.

This legislation would allow a good portion of the money which was originally designated for the construction of the facility to be used instead for the acquisition of property. The change is necessitated largely because initial plans called for the acquisition of a much smaller parcel of land upon which a parking garage would be constructed. In the revised plan, a larger parcel of land would be acquired. The new tract will be large enough to accommodate a flat level parking area, and as a result, an expensive parking garage will not be required.

In addition, this legislation would expand the 1978 law by allowing the City of Charleston to lease or purchase from the National Park Service a portion of the site upon which an aquatic museum could be built. I believe this museum would add greatly to the Fort Sumter Facility, as visitors, especially school groups, would be able to combine the experiences of an historic monument and an aquarium.

Furthermore, ~~In addition,~~ this legislation would give the Park Service authority to grant and accept easements and covenants over the property. This provision would allow the Park Service to enter into agreements to share portions of the parking area with the City and other interested parties. In return, the City would perform routine services such as lawn maintenance and refuse removal. Of course, any covenant or easement which the Park Service grants would be contingent upon strict compliance with National Park Service standards by the recipients.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to stress that all parties involved--the National Park Service, the City of Charleston and others--strongly support Dockside II over all the other sites which have been considered. I am sure that Mayor Riley and Mr. Campsen can testify to the fact/that this piece of property is the only feasible piece of land left in Charleston which can adequately house the type of welcome center which the Fort Sumter National Monument deserves.

One final note: Mr. George Campsen, who has operated the Fort Sumter tour boat concession for the National Park Service since 1962, has played an important role in keeping the Dockside II property available to the Park Service. In January, Mr. Campsen purchased this property and since that time has assigned an option to the Park Service at no cost.

I am confident that Mr. Campsen could sell the Dockside II property for a healthy profit if he were inclined, but because he is interested in ensuring that the Fort Sumter Monument Welcome Center be located in an appropriate location, he has resisted offers from developers interested in purchasing the property. Mr. Campsen's good will cannot last forever; however, because of financial limitations, so I hope this Subcommittee and the Full Committee will favorably consider this bill as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that S. 2534 will greatly improve the Fort Sumter Tour Boat Project. This legislation will ensure convenient access to the Fort Sumter National Monument for many years to come, and I urge my Colleagues who serve on this Subcommittee to favorably report S. 2534 in the very near future.

Senator THURMOND. Mr. Chairman, I want to request at this time that a statement by Congressman Hartnett follow my statement in the record.

Senator HECHT. It will be a part of the record.

Senator THURMOND. And I will offer that at this time.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

[The statement of Mr. Hartnett follows:]

JULY 18, 1986

STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN THOMAS F. HARTNETT
WITH RESPECT TO LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION
AND DEVELOPMENT OF A MAINLAND TOUR BOAT FACILITY FOR THE
FORT SUMTER NATIONAL MONUMENT IN SOUTH CAROLINA
(S. 2534)

Initially, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for the opportunity to submit the following statement to the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, Reserved Water and Resource Conservation. As the Congressman representing the district in which the Fort Sumter National Monument is located, I feel qualified to detail the importance of this legislation to the tourists who visit this area and, subsequently, the local economy.

Since 1962, over 3 million tourists have availed themselves of the tour boat excursion to historic Fort Sumter National Park. Yearly, an average of 190,000 curious sightseers take advantage on this journey to the fort where the Civil War began. Unfortunately, this service has become so popular that the existing tour boat facility has outgrown the docks where the boats are currently moored. The pending construction of a much needed bridge and the growth of the city marina where the tour boats are currently docked has greatly limited the space available for this economically stimulating enterprise. As a result, Congress, through the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, appropriated over $5 million so that the Secretary of the Interior could purchase an alternative site for harboring this important facility. Unfortunately, due to a local controversy, the actual use of this alternative site became impossible. Therefore, Congress, through Public Law 99-199, amended the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 in order that the Secretary of Interior might acquire a further location. As in the previous case, this site was also determined to be impracticable.

After years of additional meetings and compromises, the City Council, the local Chamber of Commerce, the applicable Neighborhood Associations, the Mayor of Charleston, the Secretary of the Interior, the National Park Service and the managers of the tour boat facility have agreed on a mutually acceptable site. Quite simply, S. 2534, as introduced by Senator Thurmond, will permit the Secretary of the Interior to utilized the funds which were appropriated in the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 for the acquisition of the new site at the fair market value of the property.

In addition, this legislation will permit the construction of a marine museum and a restaurant on the new site in order to maximize the comfort and educational value of the entire facility. However, the aforementioned museum will be constructed with local funds and the restaurant will be built with private funds. As the title of this bill stipulates, S. 2534 provides for the acquisition and development of a mainland tour boat facility for the Fort Sumter National Monument. I must emphasize that this bill does not authorize the use of federal funds for construction of a marine museum or a restaurant.

Obviously, the materialization of a viable tour boat facility has been an arduous task. However, finally, all the principles are satisfied and anxious to proceed with the development of the project. Therefore, I hope that the Members of this Subcommittee will share my enthusiasm for this venture and, subsequently, expedite the passage of this necessary legislation.

Again, thank you for granting me the opportunity to testify to this Subcommittee. Please contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Senator **THURMOND**. Now Mr. Brian Varnado is Superintendent of the Fort Sumter National Monument, and I do not know whether he would care to say anything or not. If you would hear him for a minute or two, I would appreciate it.

Senator **HECHT**. Whatever your request might be.

Mr. **VARNADO**. I have no statement to make, Senator.

Senator **THURMOND**. He has no statement to make, but you fully endorse it?

Mr. **VARNADO**. I do indeed, yes, sir.

Senator **THURMOND**. And, Mr. Campsen, you are to be commended for all you have done there for 24 years in serving the public. I can understand the pressure you are under from a financial standpoint now, but we hope this bill can be acted on as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman, again we thank you for your courtesy and your efficiency in handling this matter.

Senator **HECHT**. And I thank you two distinguished colleagues. Thank you very much.

Senator **HOLLINGS**. Thank you very much.

Mr. Owen Gondor, would you come up please?

For the audience, we will hear his testimony and then we will have a 5-minute recess.

We thank you for your indulgence, and we will now anxiously await your testimony.

STATEMENT OF OWEN L. GONDOR, UTAH FARM BUREAU, GARRISON, UT

Mr. **GONDOR**. Mr. Chairman, I am certainly happy to be able to be here today and have this opportunity to testify concerning the Great Basin National Park. In doing so, I am representing Gondor's Ranch, as well as the Utah Farm Bureau, a member organization of 21,000-member families. I ask that my statement be made a part of the record.

Senator **HECHT**. It will be. Thank you very much.

Mr. **GONDOR**. My name is Owen Gondor, and I live and operate a ranch in Garrison, UT, just outside the proposed park. About two-thirds of my summer grazing is on the Humboldt Forest around Wheeler Peak, most of which is still included in this most recent park bill.

In about 1880, my great grandfather was one of the first four settlers to come to this valley, make peace with the Indians, and homestead most of the ranch we are now operating. I am the fourth generation of Gondor's to operate this ranch, and my sons who are now taking an active part are the fifth.

Each generation has added to this to make it what is known to ranch people as an economical unit. That is, the summer range is balanced by an equal amount of winter range, and the farm portion is capable of furnishing its share of crops to feed the cattle in adverse weather, and to background the cows for 3 to 4 months after they are weaned and until they go to market at about 700 pounds.

If this park is established our summer grazing will be taken from us, throwing our entire operation out of balance. I would then have winter range and a farm with nowhere to summer-graze livestock as there are no other summer grazing lands available in this area.

My family has spent considerable money in acquiring these permits, and I have spent a lot of time and money in schooling myself to carry on this operation. The loss of my summer grazing privileges, or even the serious curtailment of them, would make it impossible for me to continue my present ranching operation and I would not be able to continue the heritage which I have been given, and which I have spent my life thus far building upon, and which I am hoping to be able to pass on to my two sons.

There are provisions in this bill which would allow for the possibility of continued grazing on the park, or replacement of these grazing permits. I have serious reservations about either of these alternatives. The bill says that grazing shall continue subject to such limitations, conditions, or regulations as the Secretary shall prescribe. History has proven that regulations and conditions required by the Park Service will make it uneconomical to continue to graze livestock on the park because the Park Service has no specialist in range and livestock management, nor do they intend to have any. They simply do not want livestock on the park, and it will be their intent to eliminate them.

For example, Capitol Reef National Park. Grazing was left in this park and ranchers tell us it has been pure hell trying to run cattle under Park Service administration. And if the park has their way, these people will in the very near future be eliminated from grazing there altogether.

The bill also says the Secretary of Agriculture is to provide for exchange of lands on the Humboldt National Forest, or range improvement on the South Snake Range. There are no other allotments available on the forest that are close enough that I could afford to use them, and there are none on this particular range.

There are two reasons why range improvement on the South Snake Range would not be a good alternative. First, there are not nearly enough acres that are suitable for range improvement to take care of these cattle. Second, all the range that is suitable is at a lower elevation and would only be suitable for early summer grazing and would not replace the 2 to 3 months of late summer grazing provided by the higher country contained in the proposed park.

I am also concerned about the language of "grazing shall continue" remaining in the final park bill. I would hope that you would protect that clause at all costs if this bill is slated to go.

One of my other vital concerns is money. Because of the topography and area covered, this would be an economic boondoggle to try to administer under Park Service management. Because of the many canyons that are not connected to each other, there would be a problem with controlling access and policing those people that were there.

Once again, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for this opportunity to testify and would ask, please don't take my ranch away from me.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Gondor follows:]

Testimony by Owen L. Gonder
Garrison, Utah 84728 before the
Public Lands Subcommittee
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
358 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Gentlemen:

The following testimony is offered in opposition to the establishment of the Great Basin National Park in White Pine County, Nevada. In testifying, I am representing Gonder's Ranch and the Utah Farm Bureau, an organization of over 21,000 member families, and I ask that this be made a part of the official record.

My name is Owen L. Gonder and I live and operate a ranch in Garrison, Utah, just outside the proposed park. About two/thirds of my summer grazing is on the Humboldt Forest around Wheeler Peak, most of which is still included in the most recent park bill. In about 1880, my great-grandfather was one of the first four settlers to come to this valley, make peace with the Indians and homestead most of the ranch we are now operating. I am the fourth generation of Gonders to operate this ranch, and my sons, who are now taking an active part, are the fifth.

Each generation has added to this to make what is known to ranch people as an economical unit. That is, the summer range is balanced by an equal amount of winter range and the farm portion is capable of furnishing its share of crops to feed the cattle in adverse weather and to background the calves for three to four months after they are weaned and until they go to market at about 700 pounds.

If this park is established, our summer grazing will be taken from us, throwing our entire operation out of balance. I would then have winter range and a farm with nowhere to summer graze livestock, as there are no other summer grazing lands available in this area. My family has spent considerable money in acquiring these permits, and I have spent a lot of time and money in schooling myself to carry on this operation. The loss of my summer grazing privileges, or even the serious curtailment of them, would make it impossible for me to continue my present ranching operation, and I would not be able to continue the heritage which I have been given and which I have spent my life thus far in building upon, and which I am hoping to pass on to my two sons.

There are provisions in this bill which would allow for the possibility of continued grazing on the park, or replacement of these grazing permits. I have serious reservations about either of these alternatives. The bill says that "grazing shall continue, subject to set limitations, conditions, or regulations as the Secretary shall prescribe."

History has proven that regulations and conditions required by the Park Service will make it uneconomical to continue to graze livestock in the park because the Park Service has no specialists in range and livestock management, nor do they intend to have any. They simply don't want livestock on the park and it will be their intent to eliminate them. And so somewhere down the road I will lose this permit one way or another. For example, Capitol Reef National Park. Grazing was left in this park and ranchers tell us it has been pure hell trying to run cattle under Park Service administration. And if the Park Service has their way, these people will, in the very near future, be eliminated from grazing there altogether.

The bill also says the Secretary of Agriculture is to provide for exchange of lands on the Humboldt National Forest, or range improvement on the South Snake Range. There are no other allotments available on the forest that are close enough that I could afford to use them. And there are none on this particular range at all.

Also, where would the money come from? There is certainly not nearly enough provided in this bill. It would take at least $100,000 to $150,000 to replace just mine. There are two reasons why range improvement on the South Snake Range would not be a good alternative. First, there are not nearly enough acres that are suitable for range improvement to take care of my cattle. Second, all the range that is suitable is at a lower elevation and would only be suitable for early summer grazing and would not replace the two to three months of later summer grazing provided by the higher country contained in the proposed park.

The effort to create a national park in this area, which is already under competent public administration, is ill-advised. The area is already being competently administered by the U.S. Forest Service, where all uses are integrated, where the resources can be more fully met. Multiple-use management in this area, or in any similar area, would be essentially wiped out should action be taken to lock it up as a national park or monument. Argument that the area should be added to the National Park System while there is still time, is an indication of the lack of understanding of National Forest management policies and administration and is a deliberate attempt to create an erroneous impression. The area has been safely administered by the Forest Service for more than 50 years under the multiple-use concept of land management. It is generally in very good condition and there is no danger whatsoever of damage to scenic or recreational values.

A long-range program of conservation and recreational development has been recommended by the Forest Service and is in effect at the present time. This plan gives full recognition to scenic, scientific, recreational, and renewable resources. Most of the area is comprised of long, steep, narrow canyons with a road and creek in each one. These creeks all flow down and are used for other things off the national forest, including culinary. It would be impossible to put anywhere near the amount of people a national park would bring without destruction to the vegetation in these areas and, most certainly, pollution of the waterways. Two of these canyons nearest to Lehman Caves National Monument are already near capacity for camping and they would be the ones that would receive most of the pressure from the additional people. It would also be infeasible to push anywhere near this number of people through the caves. The inclusion of this area in a national park with the increase of people it would bring would destroy the very thing that it was designed to preserve. Why should we sacrifice an area like Mount Wheeler to single, or limited-purpose use and the deterioration of even this use that a park would bring, when we can have recreation and preserve the scenic values without sacrificing our basic industry. The only possible advantage I can see in the park is the possible bolstering of a few businesses in Reno, Nevada. I cannot see the justice in trying to inflate the economy of one group of people at the direct expense of another.

One of my other vital concerns is money. Because of the topography and area covered, this would be an economic boondoggle to try to administer under Park Service management. Because of the many canyons that are not connected to each other, there would be a problem with controlling access and policing those people that were there. It would cost a lot to provide facilities at all these places to even provide minimum services for the people that proponents claim are going to come.

There is only a small portion that is connected to Lehman Caves and the cost to provide roads for people to see the rest would be astronomical, given the terrain that would have to be traversed to get people from one part of the park to another. The $1 million provided in the bill wouldn't even get started, especially considering it cost nearly half that much just to run a new power line from the Forest Service boundary up to the caves.

I have to agree with Secretary Hodel in a recent speech in Reno when he said that at a time when the Park Service is having to shut down parts of already established national parks, we cannot justify establishing a new park. And to establish a park and curtail a lot of these uses that are there now, and not provide for the increased use a park would bring would be pure folly, indeed.

Respectfully yours,

Owen L. Gonder

Senator **Hecht**. Thank you for testifying. Again, thank you for your indulgence to allow two busy Senators to testify.

Mr. **Gondor**. That is quite all right.

Senator **Hecht**. We will now have a 5-minute recess, and we will reconvene in exactly 5 minutes.

[Recess.]

Senator **Hecht**. Our panel No. 9. Mr. Gordon Robertson, Mr. Russell Butcher, Mr. Brock Evans, Mr. Jay Meierdierck, Ms. Barbara Agonia, and Ms. Marjorie Sill.

Mr. Gorton Robertson, would you please begin.

Mr. **Robertson**. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to begin on a note of correction of the title that was furnished to the committee. It should read "Great Basin National Park Act, S. 2506," as opposed to the Nevada Wilderness Act.

Senator **Hecht**. We will correct that. Give him another start. Do not take that off of his time.

Mr. **Robertson**. Give me a few more seconds. [Laughter.]

Senator **Hecht**. Please begin.

STATEMENT OF GORDON C. ROBERTSON, LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

Mr. **Robertson**. As you may know, Mr. Chairman, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies was founded in 1902 and is a quasi-governmental organization of public agencies that possesses the legal authority for protection and management of fish and wildlife resources.

The association's governmental members include the fish and wildlife managing agencies of the States, provinces, and Federal Governments of the United States, Canada, and Mexico. All 50 States are members.

The association does not support the proposal for a Great Basin National Park as provided in S. 2506. The association's position is that the Wheeler Peak area should remain under Forest Service jurisdiction with a potential for congressional designation as a National Forest Wilderness Area.

The Wheeler Peak's area is already designated as a National Scenic Area, and the association believes that this serves the broader public interest.

There are several reasons for this position. Nevada currently has an extremely high acreage of Federal lands, and further land designation that curtails or negates the State's authority and ability to manage wildlife is not in the best interest of the resource. National Park status would bring a halt to the Nevada Department of Wildlife's successful program of reintroduction of rocky mountain bighorn sheep, as well as management and research on all other forms of fish and wildlife within the area.

The investment for the reintroduction of bighorn sheep and management of other wildlife species financed by hunters and anglers would be lost. No hunting would be allowed under park status, and access for those interested in fish and wildlife would be more restricted. In addition, we note that S. 2506 would allow grazing within a National Park, and it also makes no provision for water rights.

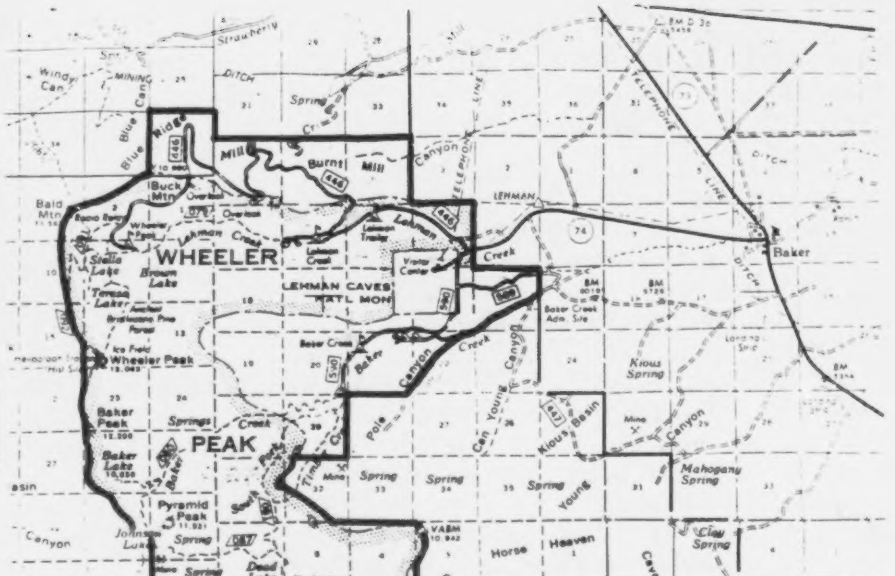
If, however, the National Park bill advances, we request modification of the current Senate bill park boundaries to accommodate management of bighorn sheep and critical wintering range of mule deer. The eastern boundary of the proposed park would best suit wildlife management needs if it followed the Pole Canyon Road to its terminus in section 28 and then roughly followed the boundary of the existing Wheeler Peak Scenic Area.

Mr. Chairman, there is a map attached to the testimony which shows the area of least impact.

Senator **Hecht**. It will be put into the record.

Mr. **Robertson**. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on S. 2506, and I will take any questions if you have them.

[The map submitted by Mr. Robertson follows:]


WHEELER
PEAK
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AREA
SNAKE
DIVISION
LEHMAN CAVES NAT'L MON
Baker
LEHMAN
Buck Mtn
Bald Mtn
Stella Lake
Brown Lake
Teresa Lake
Wheeler Peak
Baker Peak
Baker Lake
Pyramid Peak
Johnson Lake
Dead Lake
Lincoln Peak
Granite Peak
Mt Washington
Horse Heaven
Granite Basin
Kious Basin
Kious Spring
Mahogany Spring
Clay Spring
Lexington Arch
Mustang Spr
Strawberry
Blue Canyon
Mill Creek
Burnt Mill
Lehman Creek
Baker Creek
Young Canyon
Pole Canyon
Snake Creek
Cave Canyon
Big Wash
Highland Ridge
Lexington Can
Black Canyon
Telephone Line
Ditch

Configuration with the least Wildlife Management Impact.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. We will go right along. Mr. Russell Butcher.

STATEMENT OF RUSSELL D. BUTCHER, SOUTHWEST AND CALIFORNIA REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATIONAL PARKS AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Mr. BUTCHER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My name is Russ Butcher, the Southwest and California representative of the National Parks and Conservation Association.

We first want to thank Senator Paul Laxalt and you, Mr. Chairman, for recognizing the extraordinary values of the Wheeler Peak area, and for offering this legislation to establish a Great Basin National Park.

Specifically regarding S. 2506, first while we would greatly prefer some kind of assured grazing phaseout, we are pleased that S. 2506 includes a method by which grazing interests may be exchanged out of the park. We urge, though, that the National Park Service also have the option under its own initiative of exploring possible exchanges that could then be offered to the park's permittees for their consideration. The permittees would still have to be willing to make the exchange.

Second, while we support a park of some 120,000 acres, we want to offer the following suggestions for strengthening this 44,000-acre proposal.

First, a significant portion of a major bristlecone pine grove located about 3 miles south of the Lehman Caves National Monument, and the cave-rich Granite Basin just to the south of that area deserve to be added to the park.

Second, we urge that both trails to Lexington Arch and the Lexington Creek and South Fork Roads leading to those trails be included within the park so the Park Service can exercise appropriate management over visitor access to this major attraction of the proposed park.

Third, we urge addition to the park of all the present Humboldt National Forest lands eastward and downslope from the S. 2506 proposed park boundary. Since the livestock grazing provisions of this bill offer to fully protect the permittees interests, we see no reason for omitting the lower slopelands. In fact, these lower slope areas would be more efficiently managed as an integral part of the higher slopelands under a single governmental agency.

Fourth, on the west side of Mount Washington is another important grove of ancient bristlecone pines that we believe deserve inclusion in the park. We believe that the patented mining claim in this vicinity should not prevent addition of this outstanding area of pines. It should be noted that the Interior Department in response to allegations that the "world's largest beryllium deposit" is located in the area recently responded by indicating that neither the U.S. Bureau of Mines nor the U.S.G.S. has any knowledge of major ore deposits in that vicinity, even after many years of mineral exploration.

We urge that the area be added to the park by extending S. 2506's westernmost segment of boundary on south through the middle of sections 34, 3, 10, 15, and 22, and then easterly to the proposed park boundary where it follows the Highland Ridge Trail.

In conclusion, we believe now is the time, after more than 60 years of debating this question, to finally establish a Great Basin National Park. Not only will all Americans who cherish our national parks be justly proud of the South Snake Range with its magnificent groves of the world's oldest living tree species, we believe Nevadans too will take pride in the fact that the Silver State can finally boast a great national park within its borders.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Butcher follows:]

NATIONAL PARKS AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION'S COMMENTS ON PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

Hearing on S. 2506
U.S. Senate Public
Lands Subcommittee
Washington, DC
July 18, 1986

My name is Russell D. Butcher. I am the Southwest-&-California Representative of National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA). We are a 67-year-old nonprofit membership organization established to promote the protection, enhancement, and public understanding of the National Park System. Our bi-monthly magazine, NATIONAL PARKS, reaches some 60,000 members nationwide.

We are grateful for this public hearing. We first want to express our appreciation to Senators Paul Laxalt and Chic Hecht of Nevada for recognizing the extraordinary scenic and other nationally significant natural values of the Wheeler Peak area and for sponsoring legislation to establish a national park--the first for the Silver State and the first within the entire Great Basin Region.

Our Association has for many years urged that the South Snake Range, crowned with magnificent 13,063-foot Wheeler Peak, deserves special protection. In our view, based upon many years of personal visits, the South Snakes are one of the very most outstanding

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alpine mountain ranges anywhere in the United States--a real gem among mountains, a truly special place. They rise boldly, like a great island in time, through an impressive array of life zones, from the surrounding vast valleys of the Great Basin Desert.

Nationwide interest in special protection for the South Snakes began way back in 1924 when a Tonopah, Nevada, mining engineer, C.C. Boak, suggested the idea of a "Lehman Caves-Wheeler Peak National Park." A bill was introduced in Congress by Nevada's own Senator Key Pittman, but it failed to weather opposition from powerful Nevada mining and livestock grazing interests.

Renewed interest in protection for the Wheeler Peak area occurred from 1955-65, originating this time with internationally known writer Weldon F. Heald. In 1957, a lead article in the July-September NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, by Mr. Heald, stated that:

> Lehman Caves would form the nucleus and headquarters for the new park....The mountainous area is too rugged and restricted for extensive road or resort development and would best be preserved in its natural state....We proponents of "Great Basin National Park" believe that Nevada's Snake Range...would make a unique and significant addition to our national parks.

In that same year, our Association's Board of Trustees voted to support the expansion of Lehman Caves National Monument to encompass most of the spectacular high country of the South Snake Range.

The then editor of the Ely Daily Times, Darwin Lambert, strongly endorsed the proposed park, and he participated in founding a Great Basin National Park Association to help focus public attention upon the idea. Other groups and agencies joined in expressing support, including the White Pine Chamber of Commerce and Mines (as it was then called), the White Pine County Commissioners, the Nevada Municipal Association, and the Nevada Department of Economic Development.

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Nevada's distinguished Senators Alan Bible and Howard Cannon introduced legislation that was passed by the Senate in 1962. Mining and grazing interests, however, subsequently succeeded in causing defeat of the measure in the House of Representatives.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Forest Service in 1959 administratively designated 28,000 acres as the "Wheeler Peak Scenic Area," in recognition of "exceptional scenic, botanical, and geological attractions of the range." The agency built a paved road up to the 10,000-foot elevation, constructed several campgrounds, and improved and expanded the trail system.

Beginning several years ago, the idea of a national park was once again revived, this time by University of Utah professor Robert S. Waite and a number of Nevada conservationists. Dr. Waite had devoted a string of years to exploring the South Snakes--studying the geology, history, flora, and fauna, and developing a thorough firsthand knowledge of the mountain range's tremendous range of scenic assets and scientific values.

What are a few of the superlative natural assets which, taken together, present such an extraordinary opportunity for a national park? They include:

- Several outstanding groves of the Bristlecone Pine (Pinus longaeva)--the oldest living tree species in the world. Some of these marvelously picturesque, weather-sculpted ancients, growing under the most formidable conditions imaginable at or near timberline, date back to nearly 5,000 years ago. The oldest trees we see today high on the slopes of Wheeler and Mount Washington began growing when the Egyptians were building their great pyramids.
- An array of sparkling alpine lakes.
- Numerous dashing mountain streams.
- A series of bold, upthrusting peaks--some such as Wheeler composed of quartzite, while others such as Mount Washington are of massively layered limestone.

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- Rich coniferous forests ranging from pinyon and juniper up to the tall Engelmann spruce, Douglas-fir, white fir, and limber pine, mixed here and there with delightful groves of quaking aspen that turn flaming shades of gold and red in September and October.
- A remnant of glacial ice and an associated "rock glacier"--both of which are unique to the Great Basin Region.
- Numerous caves, most notably Lehman Caves in Lehman Caves National Monument, boasting exquisite and intricate formations of stalactites, stalagmites, draperies, fluted columns, and shields--some scenes of which are often reflected in the mirror surfaces of miniature cave pools.
- Many species of native wildlife such as mule deer, mountain lions, bobcats, blue grouse, Clark's nutcrackers, Steller's jays, crossbills, and the vibrantly colored mountain bluebirds.

Regarding the ancient Bristlecone pines, the National Park System already appropriately includes protection of the magnificent groves of the tallest living things on earth, the Coast Redwoods; and the largest living things, the Giant Sequoias. Other National Park System units celebrate and protect such other unique floral species of the West as the Saguaro and Organ Pipe cacti of Arizona and the Joshua Tree of California. We urge that the time is now ideal for according the oldest living tree species in its most dramatically scenic setting the same high honor and well deserved protective status within the National Park System. The South Snake Range offers the finest opportunity to do so.

At the same time, establishment of a great national park at Wheeler Peak can offer White Pine County and communities such as Ely a boost in tourism. That part of Nevada is suffering greatly from the impacts of a depressed economy owing, in large measure, to the closure of Kennecott Copper Corporation's facilities. While establishment of a national park is not the only economic need for

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the area, it can help restore the local economy to a more viable position, resulting from a steady growth in visitation over the years to come. As has been demonstrated time and time again all over the United States, establishment of national parks does bring long-term economic benefits to the surrounding communities--simply by virtue of the name "national park" that is associated with outstanding natural and/or cultural attractions.

S. 2506

We want to focus our comments upon two aspects of S. 2506:

First, while we have always opposed livestock grazing in national parks because grazing is an extractive resource use fundamentally at odds with the basic objective of protecting park ecosystems from commercial uses (except in specific instances where ranching activities are interpreted as part of the cultural scene); and while we would greatly prefer some kind of assured grazing phaseout, we are pleased that S. 2506 includes (Section 3(f)) a method by which grazing interests may be exchanged out of the national park. We would urge, however, that an additional provision be inserted into the legislation under which the National Park Service would also have the option, under the agency's own initiative, of exploring possible exchanges with the Forest Service and/or the Bureau of Land Management that could then be offered to the park's grazing permittees for their consideration. The permittees would still have to be willing to make the exchange.

Second, regarding the boundaries of S. 2506-proposed Great Basin National Park, while we have historically supported and still support a national park of some 120,000 acres, we wish to offer the following suggestions by which at least some important natural features could be added to strengthen S. 2506:

(1) A significant portion of one of the major Bristlecone Pine groves on the east side of the South Snakes has been omitted

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from the proposed park. It lies about three miles due south of Lehman Caves National Monument, around the 10,842-foot unnamed summit referred to on the Humboldt National Forest map as "VABM." We urge that the whole of this grove be included within Great Basin National Park.

(2) Several important caves in the Granite Basin area (just south of the above mentioned VABM peak) are excluded from the proposed park. We urge, therefore, that the Granite Basin area be brought into the park.

(3) Both trails leading to Lexington Arch are excluded from the park proposal. This circumstance will not allow the National Park Service from exercising appropriate management of visitor access to this highly scenic natural feature of the park. We urge, therefore, that those trails and the Lexington Creek and South Fork roads that provide access to those trails be included within Great Basin National Park. By making this adjustment, the park would then also bring within its boundaries an extremely unsightly private tract that we hope can ultimately be rehabilitated. This small, innactive patented mining claim contains several rusting and broken down shacks, a couple of rusting vehicles, and a bulldozed area of rubble. It is a real eye-sore immediately adjacent to Lexington Arch. There is no mining activity there, no development occuring, and has been unoccupied for perhaps more than a half-century. By bringing this private tract within the park boundary, it may expedite restoring the area to a relatively natural and attractive condition. But as long as it remains outside the park boundary, little if any progress toward this desired end is ever likely to occur.

(4) Because the entire eastern slope of the South Snakes is not only a scenic entity, but provides the fascinating and ecologically significant spectrum of major life zones--from the Great Basin Desert upward to the alpine heights--we strongly support the addition to the proposed park of all the present Humboldt National

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Forest lands down to the eastern boundary; that is, downslope from the S. 2506-proposed park boundary. Particularly since the livestock grazing provisions (Section [illegible](e) and (f)) offer to fully protect the interests of the permittees, we see no practical reason for excluding these lower slope lands. In fact, the lower slope lands would be far more efficiently managed as an integral part of the higher slope lands under a single governmental agency, rather than being arbitrarily divided between two separate agencies.

(5) Finally, over on the upper slope of the southwesterly side of Mount Washington is another important area of ancient Bristlecone pines that is omitted from the S. 2506-proposed park. While we are aware of the existence of a patented mining claim in that vicinity, we urge that this claim is not a compelling reason for excluding the pines. To the contrary, it should be noted that the Department of the Interior, in response to allegations that the "world's largest deposit of beryllium" is located in the area, recently responded by indicating that neither the U.S. Bureau of Mines nor the U.S. Geological Survey has any knowledge of any such major beryllium (or tungsten) ore deposits in that vicinity--even after many years of exploration by mining activities. Of course, should a viable deposit ever be discovered and prove marketable, the owner(s) of this claim would have the right to develop the resource. We believe it is far more important not to omit the area of ancient Bristlecone pines from the proposed national park simply on the vague off chance that a viable deposit may yet be discovered and developed. We urge, therefore, that this area be added to the park by extending the proposed park's westernmost segment of boundary on southward through the middle of Sections 34, 3, 10, 15, and 22; and thence eastward to the proposed park boundary where it briefly follows the Highland Ridge Trail.

In conclusion, we believe now is the time, after more than 60 years of debating the question, to go for it--to finally establish

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a Great Basin National Park. Not only will all Americans who deeply our national parklands be justly proud of the South Snake Range with its magnificent groves of the oldest living tree. We believe Nevadans, too, will take pride in the fact that the Silver State can finally boast a great national park within its borders.

* * *

Senator HECHT. We thank you very much.
Mr. Brock Evans.

STATEMENT OF BROCK EVANS, VICE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL ISSUES, NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Mr. EVANS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am Brock Evans, and I am very pleased to speak here as vice president of the National Audubon Society. Very many of our 540,000 members are very interested and excited about the possibility of a Great Basin National Park, and we feel that way because the Great Basin as you know is a magnificent and ecologically unique part of America's natural history that is not yet represented in the National Park System.

The State of Nevada, which lies entirely within the Great Basin region, does not have even one national park to preserve a segment of these range and basin lands, and we commend both you and Senator Laxalt for introducing this legislation so we can consider this possibility.

This is an extremely beautiful and diverse area. The features that qualify the South Snake Range in particular for park status in our minds are the natural setting of the range, the scenic beauty resulting from the various natural formations it contains and the superb habitat it supports for plants and wildlife.

On pages 2 and part of 3 in my testimony I recite many of the natural values there. We know you know them already or you would not have sponsored or introduced the legislation, so I will skip over that.

Senator HECHT. Thank you. It will be a part of the record.

Mr. EVANS. I understand and appreciate that.

I want to refer to a few statements on page 3 just to come to some points we would like to make here. We support the legislation, and we feel there do exist some important omissions that we would urge correction to bring closer in line with other legislation in the House.

We urge in particular that we expand the acreage to 174,000 acres and take into account the national park and preserve concept to permit hunting in the south part where there is a possible conflict there.

In addition, I cite on the bottom of page 3 the various additions which we think are especially important: the Eastern Slope, the Granite Basin area, the Lexington Arch, several bristlecone pine areas. And then on the western boundary as well. My colleague, Mr. Butcher, has already referred to I think all of these in detail so I will not recite them.

Turning to grazing, we would favor the same provisions for protecting the grazing permittee in any additions as are now included in the legislation. We feel that the present level of grazing should be allowed to continue. This is a long, established practice. We also would urge though that we consider changing section 3(f) to allow the Park Service to look for and offer alternate grazing lands to the permittees elsewhere than only in the Humboldt National Forest. Of course this would be with the consent of the permittee right now. We feel this might expand the options that might be available in the future.

To sum up, the National Audubon supports S. 2506 as far as it goes. We feel it is an excellent first step toward giving this valuable range the National Park status it deserves. At last we feel a Great Basin National Park would save in an unspoiled State the geological and biological wonders of the South Snake Range for reverence and enjoyment of all people.

We urge you to consider the recommendations we have made and to include the rest of the areas in the South Snake that are so deserving.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Evans follows:]

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Statement of BROCK EVANS
Vice President for National Issues
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Before the Senate Energy Committee
Subcommittee on Public Lands
Regarding S-2506
TO CREATE A GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK
In eastern Nevada

Washington, D.C., July 18, 1986

AMERICANS COMMITTED TO CONSERVATION
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I am pleased to be here today to speak on behalf of the National Audubon Society, one of the oldest and largest nationwide conservation organizations, dedicated to the well-being of this nation's natural heritage. We represent over 540,000 members organized into over 500 local chapters. National Audubon as a whole and our Southwestern groups in particular are highly interested in and excited at the prospect of creating the Great Basin National Park in eastern Nevada, which S.2506 proposes.

The Great Basin of the American West is a magnificent and ecologically unique part of America's natural heritage that deserves substantial representation in our National Park System. The State of Nevada, which lies entirely within the Great Basin region, does not have even one national park to preserve a segment of her range and basin lands. The passage of S.2506 would be a large step toward preserving at least a small part of that vast and incomparable land for the education and enjoyment of people of all time.

The area of the Great Basin that would be designated a national park by S.2506 is a portion of the South Snake Range, presently a component of the Humboldt National Forest. It is because of the singularly beautiful and ecologically valuable mountains of the South Snake Range that a national park was first envisioned here. The Great Basin National Park would contain an area unique in the wider topographical region -- a magnificent stretch of alpine mountains, capped by the 13,063 foot Mt. Wheeler, jutting up from the surrounding desert floor. For reasons of scenery alone, this territory of remarkable contrast and natural wonder warrants protection as a national park.

It is worth reviewing the history of previously attempted park legislation for the South Snake Range before examining the particular features which we believe make it so exceptional. Already in 1924, a mining engineer working in the South Snake area had suggested creating a 'Lehman Caves -- Wheeler Peak National Park.' The vast open expanses of land in America's West in those days disinclined many from feeling the need for preservation, however, and several lobby groups directed by mining and livestock interests easily defeated the bill.

In 1957 a Great Basin National Park Association was formed with the help of Darwin Lambert, the noted conservation writer. Two years later, the National Park Service proposed that 147,000 acres of the South Snake Range be designated as a national park, a recommendation that was endorsed by President Eisenhower and after him by both Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. The Senate actually passed legislation in 1962 for the establishment of a Great Basin National Park, but the House did not act on it and the bill unfortunately did not become law. In short, many different groups over many decades have recognized the uniqueness and natural value of the South Snake Range and have recognized the need for ensuring its preservation as a national park. National Audubon agrees that this region deserves such protection and recognition and feels that at long last it ought finally be accorded.

The features of the South Snake Range that qualify it for park status in the eyes of the Audubon Society include the natural setting of the range, the scenic beauty resulting from the various natural formations it contains, and the superb habitat it supports for both plants and wildlife.

The remarkable thing about the peaks of the South Snake is that they are there at all. The upthrust mountains, including Mt. Wheeler, which is the highest peak fully in Nevada, tower boldly above the surrounding basin lands and create a dramatic contrast with the arid and scorching desert floor thousands of feet below. The tremendous differences in altitude and climatic zones which result within the South Snake Range allow for the great variety of plant and animal habitat found there. In incredibly close proximity, at least five major life zones are found within the boundaries of the South Snake unit that normally would not exist less than two or three thousand miles away.

A few of the natural formations of the park which add to its splendor should be singled out. Beneath the above-mentioned Mt. Wheeler, for instance, is found a large cirque which still harbors a remnant of glacial ice. (Thousands of years ago much of the range was swallowed up in deep valleys of ice.) Clearly, anyplace in Nevada which has the potential of supporting ice and/or snow year-round is a rarity. Also not far from Wheeler Peak are found the magnificent Lehman Caves with their amazing stalagmites, draperies, and shields which form a true spelunker's delight. In addition to Lehman Caves, other cave systems would be included in the Great Basin National Park, some of which contain underground pools. Massive upthrusted peaks of both quartzite and granite would be included in the park as part of the South Range. Finally, a real treat for hikers would be located near the proposed border of the park -- Lexington Arch, a huge erosion-carved limestone bridge under which a six-story building could be constructed.

Alpine lakes and streams are plentiful throughout the range, fed year-round by melting snow and the remnant of glacial ice high up in the Wheeler Cirque. This is, of course, very special anywhere in the Great Basin region. This steady supply of clear water provides for an amazing abundance of animal and plant life throughout the range. Among the wildlife residents of the South Snake region are mountain lion, mule deer, bobcat, mountain bluebird, crossbill, blue grouse, and many other species, some of which are quite rare in Nevada.

The substantial runoff also allows for extensive forest growth on the slopes and in the valleys of the South Snake Range. Among the major species of trees represented are juniper, pinyon, Englemann spruce, Douglas fir, quaking aspen, white fir, and Bistlecone pine. The groves of Bistlescone pine are of especial concern to environmentalists -- Bristlecone pine is the oldest living tree species in the world. Many of these trees found in the South Snake Range are 4,000 years old or older. It is crucial these venerable ancients be given the protection their age merits. The Park Service has done an admirable job caring for the world's tallest and largest trees, the coast Redwoods and Giant Sequioas. We have full confidence that the Park Service would do everything necessary to assure the preservation of the Bristlecone groves included in the new park.

Thus, the area within this proposed park would contain special natural features and support plant and animal life that is quite rare and sensitive to development and the interference of man. That is the main reason the National Audubon Society supports this bill. Additionally, however, the creation of the Great Basin National Park would undoubtedly be a big boost to the stagnant eastern Nevada economy, and it is clear that most Nevadans favor its creation -- of 2000 Nevadans randomly surveyed in the last year, over 84% supported the establishment of a Great Basin National Park.

Although National Audubon supports this legislation creating a Great Basin National Park, we feel there exist some important omissions in S.2506 that should be corrected to bring the bill closer in line with the complementary bill being proposed in the House. The House bill [HR.4642] includes all 174,000 acres of the South Snake unit of the Humboldt National Forest, referred to as a 'national park and preserve.' Ideally, the Senate bill would support that same acreage, which would eliminate a variety of National Audubon's concerns. This full acreage proposal greatly simplifies the issue of management and jurisdiction for both the Forest Service and the Park Service. More importantly, as far as the park itself is concerned, the larger House proposal would create a much more complete ecological and topographical region. That is, the national park envisioned in HR.4642 would be a more comprehensive and logical whole than the uneven 44,000 acres designated by S.2506.

Below are listed the items omitted in the proposed Great Basin N. P. that the National Audubon Society is most concerned about:

Eastern Slope:	The east side of the South Snake Range should be included in the park down to the present Forest Service boundaries so that the variegated life zones are all protected.
Granite Basin:	This area, located approximately four miles south of Lehman Caves, should definitely be added to S.2506 so that its fabulous caves and cave formations are in the park.
Lexington Arch:	The arch itself is included in the park bounds, but under S.2506 its access trails are not. This will only cause administrative problems for the Park Service and the Forest Service.
Bristlecones:	A significant part of the Bristlecone pine grove due south of Lehman Caves on the 10,842-foot unnamed peak (designated 'VABM' on Forest Service maps) is left out of the park. Also, the whole Bristlecone pine grove on the southwestern slope of Mt. Washington has been excluded because of the St. Lawrence Mine patented claim in the area. This claim is in disuse and has no known economic value. The trees should be protected.

Western Boundary:	The north-south boundary of the Senate bill comes down through forest areas. We recommend extending it due south for five more sections and then east. This would form a straighter and more logical park boundary that would be more easily managed.
Grazing:	The Audubon Society agrees that the present level of grazing should be allowed to continue in the park. We also feel, however, that Section 3 (f) should be changed so that the Park Service has the option to look for and offer alternate grazing lands to the permittees.

National Audubon supports S.2506 as far as it goes. It is an excellent first step toward giving this valuable range the National Park status it deserves. At last, the Great Basin National Park would save in an unspoiled state the geological and biological wonders of the South Snake Range for the reverence and enjoyment of all people. We only hope the legislation will be expanded to include the rest of the areas in the South Snake that are so deserving.

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Senator HECHT. And thank you very much.

Mr. Jay Meierdierck.

STATEMENT OF JAY MEIERDIERCK, LAHONTAN AND RED ROCK AUDUBON SOCIETIES, CARSON CITY, NV

Mr. MEIERDIERCK. Thank you, Senator.

My name is Jay Meierdierck. I reside at 2504 North Mountain Street, Carson City, NV. Today I am speaking on behalf of the Lahontan Audubon Society of northern Nevada and the Red Rock Audubon Society of southern Nevada representing between 2,500 and 3,000 Nevadans.

I have studied, analyzed, and assisted in planning for every local community and regional government in Nevada and the State itself. I have been involved in parks and related management throughout Nevada. In 1979 I represented the State of Nevada on a team evaluating and developing alternatives and gathering public input for the Great Basin National Park designation.

I would like to speak on three areas:

One, should there be a Great Basin National Park?

Two, where should it be?

And three, what should be included in the Great Basin National Park?

The House of Representatives has approved a bill to establish the Great Basin National Park and Preserve. According to a recent statewide study by the division of State parks, 83.7 percent of Nevadans support a national park. General tendencies in the West indicate an increasing orientation toward Nevada as an outlet for recreational needs, and the proposed Great Basin National Park establishes a new national park with qualities that are not presently represented in our National Park System.

The Nevada Legislature, the White Pine County Commission, the Ely City Council, several statewide advisory boards, the major newspapers of Nevada, local organizations including the Audubon Societies and a whole host of others in Nevada support this proposal.

In conclusion, the designation of a Great Basin National Park is a highly meritorious proposal and deserves the complete support of this committee and the U.S. Senate.

Where should the Great Basin National Park be? In 1979 the National Park Service found that the area studied in the Snake Range contains scenic and scientific resources of national significance suitable for National Park purposes. In 1924, 1961, 1963, and 1965 legislation was introduced to establish the Great Basin National Park. All of these proposals were in the Snake Range.

In conclusion, the Snake Range and Spring Valley is the best possible site for the Great Basin National Park.

Now what should be included in the Great Basin National Park? The House of Representatives' bill designates a total of 174,000 acres. The U.S. Senate bill proposes a total acreage of 44,000. Bills have been introduced in Congress since 1924. Original measures called for a park of approximately 147,000 acres. Later it was agreed to push for a park of 123,360 acres and bills to this effect were introduced by Senators Bible and Cannon in the Senate, and Congressman Baring in the House.

In January 1962 a park bill containing this number of acres passed the Senate. No bill until this year has passed the House. In 1963 Congressman Baring introduced a bill which would have cut the acreage of the park from 123,360 acres to 53,120 acres. This bill failed to pass as it was not acceptable to the Interior Department nor to the House Subcommittee on National Parks, or the full Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

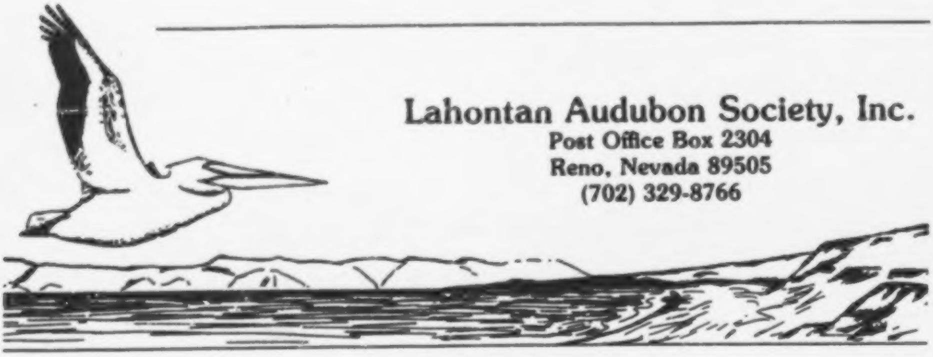
The argument should not be how many acres; it should be: How can the very best be protected? How can we do it right? What resources are necessary to be included in the area present in the Great Basin National Park System?

I have several other points in my testimony, but I see my time is up. I would just like to say that the park that is proposed in this Senate bill is way too small. There are many, many natural features that have been proposed by others that are not included in this proposal, and to adequately represent the Great Basin you need to include all of those natural features.

The park as proposed is not a Great Basin National Park, it is a tourist attraction. It is not great because it is a small area. It is not a basin because it has only a mountain peak in it. It is not a national park because Webster defines a National Park as an area set aside to protect and preserve an area, and this area does not do that.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Meierdierck follows:]



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STATEMENT OF JAY MEIERDIERCK

OF

THE UNIFIED AUDUBON SOCIETIES OF NEVADA

BEFORE THE

SENATE PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTE

ON

SENATE BILL 2506

REGARDING THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

July 18, 1986

My name is Jay Meierdierck. I reside at 2504 North Mountain Street, Carson City, Nevada.

Today I am speaking on behalf of the Lahontan Audubon Society of northern Nevada and the Red Rock Audubon Society of southern Nevada. Each of these organizations has a membership of over 500, with many of those family memberships. Therefore, I am representing between 2,500 and 3,000 Nevadans. I have served on the board of directors of both of these organizations, and I know that both groups strongly support the preservation of a portion of Nevada as part of the National Park system.

Professionally I am a planner. I received a degree in Economics from Arizona State University. I was a land use planner in Clark County, Nevada, and developed a Comprehensive Regional Plan for all of Clark County, the first such plan and the one that formed the basis for the current regional plan. I was the Program Coordinator for Acquisition, Planning, and Grants for the Nevada Division of State Parks and developed the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the State Parks Master Plan, the Statewide Trails Plan, the Nevada Dispersed Recreation Study, the State Natural Heritage Study and the Economics of Recreation Study, among others.

I was most recently the State Land Use Planner for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and developed the Nevada Policy Plan for Public Lands. This was a statewide policy plan that was developed for each city and county dealing with local policies for federal lands as requested in the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA). This plan dealt with public land management, disposal and special features including wilderness, recreation, mining and grazing.

In these various capacities I have studied, analyzed and assisted in planning for every local and regional government in Nevada and the State itself. I have been involved in parks and related management throughout Nevada. When the MX missile system was proposed for Nevada, I was the primary staff person for the Recreation and Wilderness state policy team that evaluated the MX Environmental Impact Statement. I served on the committee set up by Senators Laxalt and Hecht and Congressman Reid that attempted to reach some consensus on USFS wilderness proposals and legislation approximately two years ago.

While with Nevada State Parks, I represented the State of Nevada on a team with other planners from the National Park Service, the Humbolt National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management Ely District. This team spent two weeks evaluating and developing alternatives and gathering public input for the Great Basin National Park designation.

I participated in the House of Representatives hearings (October 10-11, 1985 in Washington, D.C.) regarding Wilderness for Nevada; the subcommittee on National Parks hearings (November 25, 1985 in Ely, Nevada) regarding wilderness and a Great Basin National Park for Nevada; and the Senate field hearings (February 13, 1986 in Reno, Nevada) on wilderness designation of United State Forest lands in Nevada.

I would like to speak on:

1. Should there be a Great Basin National Park?
2. Where should it be?
3. What should be included in the Great Basin National Park?

This testimony is made without having the benefit of reading Senate Bill 2506, even though I have requested copies from both Senators Laxalt's and Hecht's offices on three separate occasions.

1. SHOULD THERE BE A GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK?

The House of Representatives have approved a bill, H.R. 4642, to "...preserve for the benefit and inspiration of the people a representative segment of the Great Basin of the Western United States possessing outstanding resources and significant geological and scenic values,...." to establish the Great Basin National Park and Preserve (April 30, 1986).

According to a recent statewide study by the Division of State Parks, nearly two-third of Nevadans,

65 percent, "strongly agreed" with the idea of establishing a National Park in Nevada. An additional 18.7 percent "mildly agreed" for a total support of 87 percent of Nevadans (in addition 5.8 percent "don't know" and .1 percent refused to answer).
(Source: Nevada Division of State Parks, Recreation in Nevada, April, 1986.)

Nevada, and the entire western United States is changing and changing very rapidly. We are becoming more urban and our economics based less and less on commodity production. Tourism and recreation are exploding commercial enterprises throughout the West and especially in Nevada. Nevada suffers from the myth that it is border to border sand dunes with occasional slot machines and brothels, and a fine spot for nuclear waste. The establishing of the Great Basin National Park will help negate these myths.

Nevada is one of the fastest growing states in the country, on a percentage basis, over the last three decades. According to projections, this is expected to continue. According to a U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation study of 171 metropolitan places in the nation, the Las Vegas and Reno areas are expected to lead all the rest in their general increase of demand for outdoor recreation.

General tendencies in the west indicate an increasing orientation towards Nevada as an outlet for recreation needs.

Approximately 40 percent of Nevada State Park use is from out-of-state. The vastness and diversity of Nevada's landscape, coupled with a relatively low recreational use of these resources at present, create conditions highly prized in recreation. Nevada's economy is uniquely characterized by the recreation and entertainment industries. National Park and Wilderness recreation opportunities are clearly an important part of the "package" Nevada offers to attract out-of-state visitors.

In a study I did for Nevada State parks, the two most important factors in consideration of dispersed recreation activities were: #1 - scenery (83.2%) and #2 - good natural resources (78.1%). The primary trip purpose of surveyed non-resident motorists entering Nevada in the summer of 1975 was outdoor recreation (28.9%). This was more than for gambling (26.6%) or "passing through" (15.8%). The designation of the 21 areas as wilderness and the development of a Great Basin National Park will protect or help all of these concerns.

The proposed Great Basin National Park establishes a new national park with qualities that are not presently represented in our national park system. Proposals to designate an area within the Great Basin as part of the System have been before the Congress numerous times.

The Nevada Legislature (Fifty-third Session, Senate Joint Resolution No. 13) has passed a resolution requesting the Congress "to adopt suitable implementing legislation establishing a Great Basin National Park in eastern Nevada". The Nevada Legislature's Committee on Public Lands (April 4, 1986) endorsed "the creation of a Great Basin National Park in the Mt. Wheeler Peak area of White Pine County, Nevada".

The White Pine County Commission has expressed its support of the Great Basin National Park after conducting a public hearing of the issue for the residents of White Pine County during the fall of 1985. The Ely City Council is on record as supporting the Great Basin National Park. Several statewide advisory boards, including the Nevada State Multiple Use Advisory Board on Federal Lands, the State Parks

Advisory Board and the Tourism Commission, have taken action to support the designation of the Great Basin National Park.

The major newspapers in Nevada (the Reno Gazette-Journal, the Las Vegas Review-Journal, the Las Vegas Sun, the Carson City Appeal) have supported the designation of a Great Basin National Park (and the support of wilderness as proposed in the Reid bill, H.R.4642). Local organizations including my own Audubon Societies, the League of Women Voters, the National Wildlife Federation, and a whole host of others in Nevada support this proposal.

President Johnson in a message on "Natural Beauty of Our Country" sent to Congress on February 8, 1965 specifically asked for establishment of the Great Basin National Park.

A nationally distributed newspaper article (McClatchy News Service, printed in July 13, 1986, Carson City Nevada Appeal) indicated the National Park System, particularly in the west, is experiencing overcrowding. The designation of the Great Basin National Park would help relieve some of the demand for vacationing and playing areas. The entire Nevada Congressional delegation is in support of designating some area as the Great Basin National Park. It is a highly meritorious proposal and deserves the complete support of this committee and the United States Senate.

2. WHERE SHOULD THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK BE LOCATED?

In 1973, the National Park Service initiated a study to inventory, and list by priority, natural features in the Great Basin with potential for nomination to the National Registry of Natural Landmarks. The study was also to recommend an area that could be added to the National Park System as the Great Basin National Park. In 1975, the completed landmark study suggested four potential areas including the Snake Range. This study was transmitted to Congress in 1977. The study I participated in, in 1979, was also submitted to the Congress (October 9, 1979) and indicated that the Snake Range was the most representative of the Great Basin. The report concludes (Proposed Great Basin National Park, Nevada): "The consensus of the National Park Service is that representation within the National Park System of a typical example of Great Basin physiography is desirable. The area studied in the Snake Range contains scenic and scientific resources of national significance suitable for National Park purposes".

In 1924, Nevada Senator Key Pittman introduced a bill to create the Lehman Caves-Wheeler Peak National Park.

"The Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments having considered the scientific values of the study area in the Snake Range on April 22, 1959 found that area representative of the numerous Great Basin mountain ranges and adjudged it of national significance, suitable for preservation under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service" (Source: Secretary of the Interior Report, October 9, 1979).

In 1961, Senators Alan Bible and Howard Cannon saw the passage of a bill by the U.S. Senate for a Great Basin National Park.

Congressman Baring, Nevada's sole Representatative at the time, introduced a bill, H.R. 7283, on June 26, 1963, to establish the Great Basin National Park in Nevada.

Senate Bill S.499 of the 89th Congress (1965) was introduced by Senators Bible and Cannon to establish the Great Basin National Park.

All of these proposals were in the Snake Range. The Secretary of the Interior's Proposed Great Basin National Park (1979) report states, "The Snake Range, culminating in Wheeler Peak, and portions of the adjacent lowland desert, are typical of the geologic structures generally signified by the term 'Great Basin'".

The National Park Service in November, 1985, commented to Congressman Harry Reid that the Snake Range "is eminently qualified as a national park" (Congressional Record, April 30, 1986).

The Snake Range and Spring Valley is the best possible site for the Great Basin National Park.

3. WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK?

The House of Representatives' bill (H.R. 4642) designates 129,000 acres as the Great Basin National Park and about 45,000 acres as the Great Basin National Preserve, for a total of about 174,000 acres.

The U.S. Senate bill proposes a total acreage of 44,000.

Some groups will contend that both of these proposals are too small in acreage, while others will say that even the minuscule Senate proposal is too large. The argument should not be how many acres, it should be how can the very best be protected? How can we do it right? What resources are necessary to be included in an area to represent the Great Basin in our National Park System?

The National Park Service in their 1979 report states "We agree that this area (Snake Range) ranks first for scenic grandeur. However, a number of objections have been raised to making it a National Park; these need to be considered. It is rather small for a National Park, 147,000 acres...."

The National Park Service's Management Policies (2/78) identify several criteria for balanced growth of the System. "In all but a few cases, the areas of the National Park System are managed to place primary emphasis upon preservation and appropriate recreational use of significant natural and cultural resources." (p. I-2) "Proposals for the addition of parks to the National Park System will be evaluated in terms of the natural and historic themes identified in Part One of the National Park System Plan: History and Part Two of the National Park System Plan: Natural History" (pg.I-3).

The National Park Service has identified 25 primary Great Basin natural and cultural themes (Great Basin, Reconnaissance Survey, January, 1980) from these studies. The Park should include the protection, conservation, interpretation and restoration (if necessary) of all, or as many as possible, of the identified major resource values representative of the Great Basin. Many of these primary themes are not included in the Senate bill proposed Park (S.2506). Listed below are the primary Great Basin themes that are not included in the Park, but could be with minor boundary adjustments.

The most significant features of the Great Basin are the fault-block mountain ranges, valleys, playa lakes, alluvial fans and springs. The proposed Park is not much different from a mini-Glacier National Park in the Rocky Mountains if it does not include the "basin" portion of the "basin and range province". A portion of Spring Valley or Snake Valley must be included. Big Springs, just southeast of the U.S.F.S administered lands is a great representation of springs. Some lower elevation lands are necessary to include the sand dunes (Baking Powder Flat), terminal streams (Spring Valley or Pruess

Lake) and the full effect of fault-block mountains. The Osceola area just northwest of the proposed park includes a natural bridge, large cave and natural tunnel.

The Mt. Moriah unit of the U.S.F.S includes pristine bristlecone pine forest and deep canyons. The Mt. Moriah area has been proposed for wilderness by the House and is in the pending Senate Bill also. Its proximity to the Wheeler Peak area makes it a natural attachment to the Park for wilderness and natural area purposes.

The proposed park does not represent the natural terrestrial ecosystems of the Great Basin. The area included in the National Park Services 1979 study does. The aggregation of plants inhabiting the Great Basin is characterized by lowland desert drought-resistant shrubs of which sagebrush and saltbrush predominate. At least ten species of conifers occur in the study area. All natural phenomena (plants and wildlife) associated with life in the Great Basin, save that inhabiting the salt-encrusted sinks are exemplified withn the 1979 study area. These associations must be included in a park that is supposed to represent the Great Basin.

There are five special ecosystems within the Snake Range/Spring Valley study area. Two isolated stands of Rocky Mountain cedar occur on the wet salt-impregnated valley floor. Two additional low-elevation special ecosystems are the pygmy sage natural area and the Spring Valley white sage flats. All of these are outside of the Senate Bill 2506 boundary.

There are several cultural resources that also lie just outside the proposed boundary. Excavated archeological sites (the Garrison Pueblo, a number of cave shelters) and historic sites (Osceola ruins, Black Horse mining camp) should also be included in the Park boundaries.

To leave these areas outside the Great Basin National Park would be a crime and a grave disservice to the American people. If we fail to protect the natural resources of this part of the Great Basin, we are short-changing ourselves and future generations.

I feel that the Great Basin National Park should represent the landforms, geologic history, wildlife, plants, special ecosystems, archaeologic, historic, social and economic characteristics of the Great Basin. To do this, the National Park must include the mountains, and the valley, the developed and the wilderness. I am advocating a park similar to the area studied in 1979. Acquisition of private lands can be avoided and historic uses, such as ranching, hunting and mining, could continue unless these uses would be detrimental to the purposes for which the area was established. The ultimate boundaries, facilities and operation of the park must be determined by a professional group such as the National Park Service.

Senator HECHT. And thank you very much.

Ms. Barbara Agonia.

STATEMENT OF BARBARA A. AGONIA, FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS, LAS VEGAS, NV

Ms. AGONIA. Thank you, Senator Hecht.

I just thought I would bring a picture of that mountain that didn't measure up, as someone testified a moment ago.

Senator HECHT. It is beautiful.

[Picture displayed.]

Senator HECHT. I do not think that could be put in the record, though, because you could not bring out that beauty.

Ms. AGONIA. I do not think so, because I am taking it home.

I am Barbara Agonia, a 17-year resident of Las Vegas, NV, and a professor at Clark County Community College, and president of Soroptimist International of Greater Las Vegas, and on the steering committee of Friends of Nevada Wilderness whom I am representing today.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is a coalition representing my Soroptimist Club and 23 other Nevada organizations. Approximately 10,000 Nevada citizens are now represented by Friends of Nevada Wilderness, and these are residents of Nevada who want a National Park, and who want wilderness.

Although we stand as an organization by our original position of designating 21 wilderness areas in Nevada, we support the provisions of H.R. 3302 as amended, which includes the 128,500 acre Great Basin National Park and a Preserve of 45,500 acres.

History, aesthetics, and futuristics all have important considerations here. I would like to become a bit personal for a moment. When I was a child growing up in the farmlands of Illinois, my very wise grandfather taught me that if all our land were designated to crop use, I would be the very last child ever to walk in the woods and find the first violet of the year, but we could save that little patch of nature only as long as we were the caretakers of it.

When the war took our men and economy took our way of living, we had to leave the farm. The caretakers abandoned the woods, and now it is gone forever. The violets are gone. In our State, in Nevada, we must have caretakers of enough of our land that neither economy nor abandonment will let the beauty disappear from the sight of the next generation or the one after that.

Only designation of wilderness and a national park will provide that kind of caretaking. Fifty-three million acres of Nevada's public lands are open to mineral entry. Nearly 5 million acres of land in Nevada belong to the entire Nation in the form of military bases, gunnery ranges, and nuclear testing sites.

We are asking that less than 1 million acres be designated for protection. It amazes us that such a little drop in the bucket has created such a tidal wave of opposition. Not a single range, mine, or business operation is truly threatened. In fact, the Mining in the Parks Act is very specific. I am surprised it has not been mentioned before.

Only speculation is given a stop sign. Yet should the time ever arise that this Nation needs the land or the minerals for its survival, they will be there inviolate. In the meantime, the beauty and the character of the landscape can be held in trust for those who would learn from it and seek it out.

We must consider what is good for the many, not for the few, and we must not forget the economy. You have been told today that in the last 50 years Nevada's economy has changed, that 1 out of 3 Nevada workers is employed in tourism. The next greatest number of employees in the State work for government entities, and we are now seeking to attract high tech and other clean industries to our State.

However, some corporations considering relocation have objected to the publicized image of Nevada. Designating 174,000 acres as a national park and preserve and adequate wilderness areas will proclaim Nevada as a State abounding in opportunities for family recreation, and a State committed to diversity of opportunity.

Nevada has abundant space in the desert and on the slopes of our mountain ranges. There is space to develop and space to preserve, enough for everybody, enough for all the purposes Nevada residents and tourists wish to use it for. What is essential is that all of our available space not be subject to the ravages of development, but that some of it be saved for recreation and for our posterity.

Economy, history, esthetics, and the future will all profit from the designation of wilderness and the Great Basin National Park and Preserve. We need 592,000 acres of wilderness and the Great Basin National Park and Preserve with 174,000 acres combined. Nevada deserves the prestige and economic support that will come with these land designations.

We believe Congress cares. The House of Representatives has indicated so. We now wait upon the Senate. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Agonia follows:]

WRITTEN STATEMENT

of Barbara A. Agonia
for FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS
on the Proposed Great Basin National Park
for the Senate Public Lands Subcommittee
July 18, 1986

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am Barbara Agonia, a seventeen-year resident of Las Vegas, Nevada, and a professor at Clark County Community College. I have one graduate degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and am currently completing work on a second one at the University of Nevada, Reno. I am President-elect of Soroptimist International of Greater Las Vegas, and a member of the Steering Committee of Friends of Nevada Wilderness. Today I am speaking on behalf of Friends of Nevada Wilderness, which also represents my Soroptimist Club.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is a coalition made up of twenty-four organizations, and numerous business and individuals, who united in angry response to statements made by public officials and special interest groups that Nevadans didn't want wilderness. Approximately 10,000 Nevada citizens are now represented by our coalition, 10,000 Nevada residents who do indeed want wilderness. These are people who have businesses, homes, families, and futures in our great State. They are business and professional people, teachers, doctors, housewives, realtors, bankers, retired people, developers, restaurant owners, laborers, secretaries, engineers, and even some ranchers and miners.

Our organizational members are not all known as environment activist groups, though they, too, are among our numbers. We represent Soroptimist Clubs, the Nevada League of Women Voters, Kiwanis, and many others. All of these seek to preserve the natural heritage of Nevada through a reasonable and responsible wilderness bill.

Although we stand by our original position of designating twenty-one wilderness areas in Nevada, we support H.R. 3302 as amended. This Bill is now titled H.R. 4642 and includes a minimal designation of eleven wilderness areas totalling 592,000 acres, 128,500 acres for the Great Basin National Park, and 45,500 for a Preserve. In other words, less than two per cent of Nevada'a seventy-one million acres of land will be designated for its people.

In spite of our original position to preserve the Wheeler Peak area of the South Snake Range as wilderness, we do support the creation of the Great Basin National Park in that portion of Humboldt National Forest because of the prestige it will give to our State and for the economic impact such a Park should have in east central Nevada.

Our position is based on what is good for the many, not for the few. Both Nevadans and the people of other States and nations will benefit from the creation of adequate wilderness areas and a National Park and Preserve. Surely, economics must always be considered in major decision-making, but this issue is also one that calls upon the emotions. History, aesthetics, and futuristics all have important considerations here. Let me become a bit personal for a moment. When I was a child growing up in the farmlands of Illinois, I learned respect for the land. I knew what improper use of our fields could do to our way of life. Most importantly, my very wise grandfather taught me that if all our land were designated to crop use, I would be the very last child ever to walk in the woods and find the first violet of the year. But we could save that little patch of nature only as long as we were the caretakers of it. When war took our men and the ability to make a living from the farm disappeared, we had to leave. The caretakers abandoned the patch of woods, and now it is gone forever. The violets are gone. In our State, we must have caretakers of enough of our land that neither economy nor abandonment will let the beauty disappear from the sight of the next generation or the one after that. Only designation of wilderness or a National Park will provide that kind of caretaking.

Fifty-three million acres of Nevada's public lands are open to mineral entry. Nearly five million acres of land in Nevada belong to the American people as a whole in the form of military bases, gunnery ranges, bombing ranges, and nuclear testing sites. We are asking now for less than one million acres be designated for protection. It amazes us that such a little drop in the bucket has created such a tidal wave of opposition. Not a single ranch, mine, or business operation is threatened. Only speculation is given a stop sign. Yet should the time ever arise that this nation needs the land or the minerals for its survival, they will be there, inviolate and pristine. In the meantime, the beauty and the character of the landscape can be held in trust for all those who would learn from it and seek it out.

But let us not forget the economy. In the last fifty years Nevada's economy has changed. As the gaming industry and tourism have claimed a greater share of our economic base, mining and ranching have declined. One out of three Nevada workers is employed in a tourism-related business. The next greatest number of employees in the State work for government entities. We are now seeking to attract high-tech and other clean industries to Nevada. However, some corporations considering relocating here have objected to the image of Nevada as a State with vast tracts of barren desert spotted with brothels and dry lakes stretching between two urban centers with neon and nude dancers catching every eye. The "other Nevada" is not so well known. Designating a National Park and adequate wilderness areas will enhance the image of Nevada as a State abounding in opportunities for family recreation in scenic forested mountains, a people steeped in the tradition of the old west, and a State committed to diversity of opportunity.

In response to the 1980 Report of the Governor's Commission on the Future of Nevada, the State Department of Tourism has received an increased budget to promote Nevada as a non-gaming destination for visitors. Rural Nevada has already begun to feel the impact of this change in increased room tax receipts. This trend has been attributed to the increased promotion of Nevada's back country, its outdoor recreational opportunities, and its regional folk festivals. Designation of wilderness and a National Park will offer opportunities to Nevada's rural residents to tie into Nevada's number one industry with motels, restaurants, campgrounds, dude ranches, RV parks, and the associated services that support these businesses.

People need space, and Nevada has abundant space in the desert and on the hills and lower slopes of our mountain ranges. There is space to develop and space to preserve, enough for everybody, enough for all the purposes Nevada residents and tourists wish to use it for. What is essential is that all of our available space not be subject to the ravages of development, but that some of it, the amount designated in H.R. 4643, be saved for recreation and for our posterity. Economy, history, aesthetics, and the future will all profit from the designation of wilderness and the Great Basin National Park/Preserve. Only Congress can provide that this land will have the appropriate caretaker. The opportunity to do so must not be lost. The price is too great. We need 592,000 acres of wilderness; we need the Great Basin National Park and Preserve with 174,000 acres combined. Nevada deserves the prestige and economic support that will come with these land designations. We believe the Congress cares. The House of Representatives has supported us. We now wait upon the Senate.

Senator HECHT. And thank you very much.

Ms. Marjorie Sill.

STATEMENT OF MARJORIE SILL, TOIYABE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB, RENO, NV

Ms. SILL. Thank you, Senator Hecht.

My name is Marjorie Sill. I am a 27-year resident of Reno, NV. I am here today representing the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, with approximately 2,000 members in Nevada and eastern California.

The Toiyabe Chapter has a long history of involvement with the concept of a Great Basin National Park in Nevada. We supported a park at the hearings held by Senator Alan Bible in December 1959, supported the bills to establish such a park in the South Snake Range which were passed by the Senate, and continued to support the park until its establishment seemed to become politically unfeasible.

We did a thorough study of the natural resources and possible boundaries for a park wilderness in the summer of 1969. In the past few years, the club has advocated wilderness status for most of the national forest lands in the South Snake Range, believing the national park was unfortunately dormant.

However, the passage this spring of H.R. 3302, the Nevada wilderness bill, including a Great Basin National Park Preserve of 174,000 acres by the House of Representatives, has completely changed the situation. The chapter has reaffirmed its strong support for a Great Basin National Park as well as for wilderness.

However, the Toiyabe Chapter cannot support S. 2506 in its present form because the 44,000-acre park proposal is totally inadequate to represent the real values to be found here, and because S. 2506 fails to address the important land issue of wilderness in Nevada. The Great Basin National Park must include more than just the peaks, the bristlecones, the lake, the Lexington Arch, and the Lehman Caves. It must also include the extensive stretches of country ranging from sagebrush to alpine tundra, the long stream courses filled with riparian growth winding down to the eastern valley, the little-known country of Highland Ridge to the south of the tall peaks, and the variety of wildlife in the region, including the small band of bighorn sheep.

To designate only 44,000 acres of this vast, magnificent area as a national park would be like offering a prize-winning cake to a gathering of hungry people and serving only the frosting. A 44,000-acre park would be smaller than any other Western park except Bryce Canyon in Utah, Haleakala on Maui, and Wind Cave in South Dakota, each of which is a national park which highlights only one spectacular feature.

In contrast, Big Bend National Park in Texas which has many similarities has over 700,000 acres. The 174,000-acre park preserve in the House bill is actually a minimum size for a Great Basin National Park. We are hopeful that other units can be added in the future.

Many people have spoken about the values in the South Snake and the importance of the Great Basin National Park representing a province which is represented nowhere else in the National Park System. They have also spoken about the wonderful recreational opportunities. One thing that has not been mentioned is that the park is located in a fortunate location, since all but approximately 900 acres of the 174,000 acres in the House bill are public land. Only a simple interagency transfer is necessary to establish the park; 900 acres can be acquired as funds become available.

We have a visitors center. We have a good paved road to the 10,000, foot level. Gravel roads offer access to the back country of the park, and camping and picnic facilities. Therefore, lack of funds is not a valid reason for rejecting the 174,000-acre park preserve.

Nevadans are indeed enthusiastic about the idea of a national park, but we need a national park that represents the Great Basin Province.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Sill follows:]

Testimony on Senate Bill 2506 to Establish a 44,000-acre Great Basin National Park in Nevada before the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, Reserved Water and Resource Conservation, July 18, 1986.

by Marjorie Sill

My name is Marjorie Sill, and I am a 27-year resident of Reno, Nevada. I am here today representing the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, with approximately 2000 members in Nevada and Eastern California.

The Toiyabe Chapter has had a long history of involvement with the concept of a Great Basin National Park in Nevada. We supported a park at the hearings held by Senator Alan Bible in December, 1959, supported the bills to establish such a park in the South Snake Range which were passed by the Senate, and continued to support a park until its establishment seemed to become politically unfeasible. Members of the Sierra Club did a thorough study of the natural resources and possible boundaries for a park-wilderness in the summer of 1969. In the past few years the Club has advocated wilderness status for most of the National Forest lands in the South Snake Range, believing that the national park was unfortunately dormant. However, the passage this spring of H.R. 3302, the Nevada Wilderness Bill, including a Great Basin National Park-Preserve of 174,000 acres, by the House of Representatives has completely changed the situation, and the Chapter has reaffirmed its strong support for a Great Basin National Park as well as for wilderness.

However, the Toiyabe Chapter cannot support S 2506 because the 44,000-acre park proposal is a totally inadequate representation of the real values to be found here and because S 2506 fails to address the important land issue of wilderness in Nevada.

A Great Basin National Park must include more than just the peaks, the bristlecone, the lakes, Lexington Arch, and Lehman Caves. It must also include the extensive stretches of country ranging from sagebrush to alpine tundra, the long stream courses filled with riparian growth winding down to the eastern valley, the little-known country of Highland Ridge to the south of the tall peaks, and the variety of wildlife in the region including the small band of bighorn sheep. To designate only 44,000 acres of this vast, magnificent area as a national park would be like offering a prize-winning cake to a gathering of hungry people and serving only the frosting. A 44,000-acre park would be smaller than any other western park except Bryce Canyon in Utah, Haleakala on Maui, and Wind Cave in South Dakota, each of which is a national park which highlights only one spectacular feature. In contrast, Big Bend National Park in Texas which has many similarities has over 700,000 acres. The 174,000-acre park-preserve in the House bill is actually a minimum size for a Great Basin National Park, and we are hopeful that other units can be added in the future.

Our support for a national park is based upon our long and detailed acquaintance with the unusual geological, ecological, scenic, and recreational values of the South Snake Range, as well as our conviction that the addition of a Great Basin National Park to the National Park System is long overdue because the Basin and Range province is not represented elsewhere in this system. We also believe that the unique resources of the area--the extensive forests of ancient bristlecone pine, the eastside streams and their associated fisheries, the remnant glacier just under Wheeler Peak, the honeycomb of limestone caves--need the protection which only national park status can give. The area is rich in both flora and fauna representative of the inter-mountain west, a merging of species from the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada. Superlatives are common here: the largest mountain mahogany, the only glacier between the Rockies and the Sierra, the oldest bristlecone pine yet identified, the longest and most spectacular views for hundreds of miles. This is also superb recreational country for the hiker, the cross-country skier, the caver, the photographer, and the fisherman, as well as for those who come to sight-see. Many of the visitors are from Nevada and Utah, but others come from all over the country and from other countries, and the large majority of these visitors are extremely enthusiastic about the area.

Discussion of the cost of establishing a Great Basin National Park has failed to address the fortunate circumstances of the park location. Since all but approximately 900 acres of the 174,000 acres in the House bill is public land, only a simple inter-agency transfer is necessary to establish the park. The 900 acres can be acquired as funds become available. Lehman Caves National Monument already has an excellent, although small, visitor center, which can be enlarged at a minimum cost. A good paved road winds to the 10,000 foot level, and several gravel roads offer access to the back country of the park. Camping and picnic facilities are present, and these can be augmented as the need arises. Lack of funds, therefore, is not a valid reason for rejecting the 174,000-acre park-preserve.

The Sierra Club is concerned that the Great Basin National Park be managed primarily as a wilderness park (similar to Lassen

National Park) with a minimum of developments limited to campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads, interpretative areas, and educational exhibits. Any commercial developments should be located outside the park. This is fragile country to be managed carefully in order to keep its particular values--solitude, wide vistas, and unique natural features. In order to accomplish this goal, a comprehensive management plan for the park is particularly important. This plan should include placement and extent of present and future facilities, as well as other uses. Knowledgable volunteers could be utilized to assist the Park staff.

Nevadans are indeed enthusiastic about the idea of a national park. Over 84 percent of respondants to a State Park survey favored a national park. It is important, however, that the citizens of Nevada and of the United States have the best Great Basin National Park that can be established--one which includes all the values and does credit to this vast country. For this reason, we urge you not to settle for the inadequate park proposed in S 2506 but to adopt a bill that includes at least the acreage designated in the House bill

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the committee on this most important issue.

Senator **Hecht**. And thank you very much.

Our next panel, Mr. Carl Baker, Mr. George Swallow, Mr. Robert Marcum, Mr. Joe Griggs, Mr. Alfred Buranek, and Mr. Leonard Lewis.

Mr. **Baker**. Leonard Lewis is not present today.

Senator **Hecht**. Does he have testimony? He has 2 weeks. He can present his testimony within 2 weeks and it will be a matter of record. Please convey that.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Lewis follows:]

STATEMENT OF LEONARD J. LEWIS
FOR
MINERAL INTERESTS OF
THE MT. WASHINGTON MINING DISTRICT
WHITE PINE COUNTY, NEVADA

TO

PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
358 DIRKSEN
U.S. SENATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

RE: S. 2506
A BILL TO ESTABLISH A GREAT BASIN
NATIONAL PARK IN THE STATE OF NEVADA
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

My name is Leonard J. Lewis. I reside at Salt Lake City, Utah. I am an attorney practicing with Van Cott, Bagley, Cornwall & McCarthy, a legal group of about 83 attorneys.

A large part of the Van Cott and my personal practice over a great many years has been natural resources, including mining, oil and gas, geothermal and related minerals. We have performed work concerning properties throughout the western states.

While I am not a geologist or mining engineer, I know of my own knowledge that Mount Wheeler in Nevada has for many years been considered an area rich in a variety of minerals by many major mining companies.

The circumstance that parts of Mount Wheeler have not been mined does not mitigate against its mineral potential.

The history of mining, especially in the western states, is that a property will go for many years before it ultimately is put into production.

There are many such properties in Nevada.

The recent report of Ford, Bacon & Davis attests to the importance and viability of Mount Wheeler.

Mineral resources in the United Sates are dwindling. Some minerals are almost nonexistent in the United States. Many of these are of strategic importance to national defense and well-being.

We should think carefully over removing from potential development and use what could be a treasure house of natural resources.

Any park should be of a size which does not inhibit significant mining opportunities and the conditions of its establishment should expressly protect mining and other legitimate uses on adjoining lands.

I wonder how many of the committee members have actually seen Mount Wheeler. Those who have would, I believe, agree it is not a Yellowstone or one of a great many national parks which have uncommon characteristices of interest to generations of Americans. It is simply typical of hundreds of thousands of acres of western land which are unique only in their typical character.

As a taxpayer, I find it difficult to appreciate any material expenditure for establishment or maintenance of the proposed park when the nation is operating at large deficits and a great many social programs could use the available money.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard J. Lewis

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Senator HECHT. OK, Mr. Carl Baker, let us start right off.

STATEMENT OF CARL BAKER, BAKER RANCHES, INC., BAKER, NV

Mr. BAKER. Thank you, Senator Hecht.

I am Carl Baker, a rancher that lives near the proposed Great Basin National Park. I represent Baker Ranches, a family-owned ranch. We have grazing rights adjacent to and on the proposed park site. I would also like to express my appreciation for the attempt of you and Mr. Laxalt in minimizing the size and the impact of this park proposal.

We own the water rights from Baker and Lehman Creeks. Baker Ranches is opposed to the creation of the Great Basin National Park. We feel that multiple use serves all the people; that a national park concept is a single-use way of thinking. Multiple use now existing with the U.S. Forest Service allows the harvest of renewable resources such as firewood, fenceposts, poles, hunting, trapping, Christmas trees, grazing, picking of pine nuts, and so forth. Multiple use also permits mining, and gas and oil exploration.

Historically, none of these are compatible with the national park. The proponents of the park say that the story of the Great Basin needs to be told, and the bristlecone pine needs to be protected. I feel that the U.S. Forest Service could do this, and much, much more, at a fraction of the cost. The more is multiple use.

This is an idea that is working and is compatible with the ecology, and multiple use is something that our Nation can well be proud of and this is something that should be shown.

The cost of creating and servicing a national park at this time when our Nation is in financial trouble seems unreasonable. The money set up in Senate bill No. 2506 does not seem realistic to me. In the past year, three-quarters of a mile of underground powerlines was put in at Lehman Caves National Monuments, which is within the proposed park, at a cost of about a half a million dollars.

Now how can a visitors' center and other developments be put in for $800,000? If in fact this proposed park did bring people in as some think, what will be the cost of keeping the drinking water for the town of Baker potable? This should be considered. The impact could be quite serious.

With this loss of multiple use with its new wealth and the cost of making and servicing a new park, a good look should be taken at this proposal. Is this really park material? I feel that it is not. Mountains to the north and mountains to the west have more to offer in the way of beauty. Mount Wheeler does not have the scenic wonders that other national parks in the Western States have.

This proposed park does have Lehman Caves, which is already a national monument. Why take more? The bill, section 3, paragraph (g), is to protect the water rights. This should be expanded to cover and permit channel maintenance whenever it is required.

Senator HECHT. Carl, you will have to summarize. Your time is up. I will give you about 20 or 30 seconds.

Mr. **Baker**. I do not feel that the proposed national park in the Mount Wheeler area is in the best interests of the town of Baker, White Pine County, the State of Nevada, or the United States.

Thank you, sir.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Baker follows:]

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE On Public Lands, Reserved Water
and Resource Conservation.

I, Carl Baker, a rancher that lives near the proposed GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK. I represent Baker Ranches, a family owned ranch.

We have grazing rights adjacent to and on the proposed park site.

We own the water rights from Baker Creek and Lehman Creek.

Baker Ranches is opposed to the creation of a national park in this area. We feel that multiple use serve all the people. The national park concept is a single use way of thinking.

Multiple use (now existing with the U.S. Forest Service), allows the harvest of renewable resources, such as fire wood, fence posts, poles, hunting, fishing, fur, Christmas trees, grazing, picking of pine nuts, etc. Multiple use also permits mining, gas and oil exploration. Historically, none of these are compatible with a national park.

Proponents of the park say that the story of the GREAT BASIN needs to be told and that the Bristlecone Pine needs to be protected. I feel that the U.S Forest Service could do this and much, much more at a fraction of the cost The more is multiple use, an idea that is working and that is compatible with the ecology and is something that our Nation can well be proud of and should be shown.

The cost of creating and servicing a National Park at a time when our country is in financial trouble, seems unresponsible.

The money set-up in Senate bill No. 2206, does not seem realistic. In the past year, 3/4 miles of underground power line was put in at Lehman Cave National Monument (which is within the proposed park), at a cost of about $500,000,00±. How can a Visitor Center and other developments be put in for $800,000.00?

The cost to the U. S. Forest Service will not be reduced to any great extent and could well make what is left outside the park an administrative nightmare.

If in fact, this proposed park did bring people in, as some think, what will be the cost of keeping the town of Baker, Nevada drinking water potable? And should not this cost be at the top of the list?

With the loss of multiple use, with it's new wealth and the cost of making and servicing a new park. A good look should be taken.

Is this area park material? I feel that it is NOT. Mountains to the North and mountains to the West have more to offer in the way of beauty. Mt. Wheeler does not have the scenic wonder that most other national parks in the western United States have. This proposed park does have Lehman Cave which is already a National Monument.

The Bill Section 3, paragraph (G) is to protect water rights. This should be expanded to cover and permit channel maintenance if ever any is required.

The Bill Section 4 - ACQUISITION OF LAND The people of the town of Baker and the surrounding area are opposed (over 95%). They feel that the U. S. Government is taking their backyard and then plans to charge them $10.00 each time they want to use it, plus having some one looking over their shoulder if they do use it.

I do not feel that a National Park in the Mt. Wheeler area is in the best interest of the Town of Baker, White Pine County, the State of Nevada, or the United States.

Thank you

Carl F Baker

Carl F. Baker

July 14, 1986

Dated

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much.

George Swallow. George, good to see you here. You are a great Nevadan. You have contributed a lot to our State.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE N. SWALLOW, BLUE ENERGY RESOURCES, INC., AND INTERMOUNTAIN RANGES, LTD.

Mr. SWALLOW. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to pay special tribute to the people who represent Nevada here in the Senate and the House. I am going to deviate from my written statement to some extent.

Senator HECHT. Your entire statement will be a part of the record, George.

Mr. SWALLOW. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I wish to correct a few statements that have been made here today. For example, it has appeared from the testimony that most of the people in the State of Nevada are in favor of this Great Basin National Park. In White Pine County, where this park is located, polls have been taken of 2,500 people, in excess of one-third of the people in the county, and we have this documented. Ten percent only are in favor of the park.

Sometimes national polls are taken on the basis of only 2,000 people. Now we have the signatures here available to this committee to verify this.

Another thing that I wish to call to your attention, at the Republican State Convention this year there was a resolution in favor of endorsing the Great Basin National Park. This resolution was voted down at that convention. I am not sure that the people endorsing this Great Basin National Park are not reducing the standards for national parks.

When the first park was created in Wyoming and two sister States, the same words were used at that time: a crown jewel, pristine wilderness, and they have been very successful. At this time, all these people supporting this park might well form a society they call a society of mediocrity. We have bristlecone pines on practically every mountain range in Nevada, from the eastern mountains to the Pacific, and this is not a rare thing.

Not only that, the Forest Service is doing a tremendous job in there of multiple-use management. It is probably the best example of multiple-use management in the entire United States. Additionally, let us look at it from another perspective. I do not know how much more we can afford to put in a preservation status.

At the present time the Park Service is administering approximately 77 million acres. Now this is not a small percentage of the Nation by any means, and it is continuing. There is no question but what when this is put into a park it will expand. That has been evidenced from the testimony you just heard a few minutes ago. This will be a continuing fight with the owner.

In 1964 the cost of administering the Park Service was about $42 million. The total receipts were less than $6 million. In 1986 now they are asking for an appropriation of 845—

Senator HECHT. George, you will have to summarize. Your time is up.

Mr. Swallow. If this continues at this same rate for the next 21 years, we are talking $17 billion.

There is no question but what the mining is going to be wiped out, the livestock wiped out, and these statements about the mining, about the great supplies of beryllium, this is a great mineral and it is going to be needed in the defense of this Nation in the future. The only reason more is not being used now is because it is in short supply.

I know these are conflicting statements, but we have the documentation to back this up. Before this park proceeds any farther, there should be an objective study made of what this is going to do to the Nation.

Senator Hecht. I thank you very much. As I say, your entire statement which is comprehensive and I will be anxious to study it, George, will be in the record. Thank you for coming.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Swallow follows:]

STATEMENT OF GEORGE N. SWALLOW

FOR

BLUE ENERGY RESOURCES, INC.

AND

INTERMOUNTAIN RANCHES, LTD.

TO

PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE
ENERGY AND NATRUAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
358 DIRKSEN
U.S. SENATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

RE: S. 2506

A BILL TO ESTABLISH A GREAT BASIN

NATIONAL PARK IN THE STATE OF NEVADA,

AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE PUBLIC LAND SUBCOMMITTEE ENERGY NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

MY NAME IS GEORGE N. SWALLOW. I LIVE AT 509 CEDAR STREET, ELY, NEVADA 89301.

I AM REPRESENTING BLUE ENERGY RESOURCES, INC., AND INTERMOUNTAIN RANCHES, LTD., FIRST, I WANT TO TAKE TIME FROM MY PRECIOUS 5 MINUTES ALOTTED TO TELL YOU THAT NEVADA IS PROUD OF OUR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION SENATOR PAUL LAXALT, SENATOR CHIC HECHT AND CONGRESSMAN BARBARA VUCANOVICH. FOR MANY YEARS WE HAVE WORKED AND SUPPORTED THESE FINE PEOPLE AND WE PLAN TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING THESE PEOPLE IN THE FUTURE.

WHEN THE ACT ENTITLED "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES" WAS ENACTED INTO LAW ON AUGUST 26, 1916, ONE OF THE MAIN PURPOSES WAS TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT AREAS INCLUDED IN NATIONAL PARKS. THE PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK OF 44,000 ACRES DOES NOT NEED THIS TYPE OF PROTECTION TODAY. THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE, ALONG WITH PRIVATE ENTERPRISE HAS DONE A MAGNIFICENT JOB IN PROTECTING AND PRESERVING THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM IN THIS AREA.

IF WE DON'T START PRESERVING THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM, OUR GREAT COUNTRY WILL BECOME WEAKER AND WEAKER BY THE DAY. PLEASE PERMIT ME TO MAKE A FEW STATEMENTS THAT SHOW HOW DANGEROUS THE PRESENT COURSE ACTUALLY IS.

THE FIRST NATIONAL PARK IN 1872 STARTED WITH 2,219,823 ACRES AND INCLUDED PART OF 3 STATES: IDAHO, MONTANA AND WYOMING. IN 1986 THE TOTAL ACREAGE UNDER THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IS 77,285,815 ACRES.

THE APPETITE OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF NEW PARKS IS BECOMMING GREATER EACH YEAR. IT IS A TRAGIC STORY, IT IS A HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND ITS MANY AGENCIES FORCING RURAL PEOPLE OFF THE LAND THEY HAVE TILLED OR OTHERWISE HELD FOR GENERATIONS.

WE SHOULD STOP ESTABLISHING "EGOPOLITICAL PARKS" TO BENEFIT CONGRESSMEN ON THEIR HOME TURF. WE SHOULD ALLOW THE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO CONTROL PARKS WHICH ARE OF DUBIOUS "NATIONAL CHARACTER" AND KEEP THE DECISION MAKING ON A LOCAL LEVEL, FOR EXAMPLE; THE PROPONENTS OF THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK NAMELY THE SIERRA CLUB AND THE WHITE PINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS AND IS DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ALL OVER THE STATE OF NEVADA AND NATIONALLY TO THE EFFECT THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE WANT A NATIONAL PARK. THESE STATEMENTS ARE NOT FACTUAL, IN FACT, THESE STATEMENTS ARE FRAUDULANT STATEMENTS. AS PROOF OF THIS, FREE ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATES, INC., FOR A FEW MONTHS NOW HAVE CIRCULATED PEITITIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK.

TO DATE APPROXIMATELY 2500 SIGNATURES HAVE BEEN OBTAINED. OUT OF THE TOTAL ONLY 5% - 10% ARE IN FAVOR OF THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK. WE HAVE COPIES OF THESE PETITIONS HERE TODAY VERIFYING MY STATEMENT.

ANOTHER STRONG INDICATION OF HOW THE PEOPLE IN THE STATE OF NEVADA FEEL ABOUT A NATIONAL PARK WAS SHOWN AT THE REBPULICAN STATE CONVENTION HELD IN WINNEMUCCA, NEVADA ON MAY 9 - 10, 1986. AT THIS REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION THE MEMBERS AT THIS CONVENTION VOTED DOWN A RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK.

THE WHITE PINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND OTHER PROPONENTS ARE STATING THAT THERE ARE NO MINERALS OF ANY SUBSTANCE ON THE SNAKE RANGE AND THEY USE AS EVIDENCE A LETTER WHICH THEY HAVE PRODUCED MANY TIMES FROM FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, BOB BROADBENT. I CALL YOU ATTENTION TO A REPORT OF FORD, BACON & DAVIS, DATED MAY, 1986 OF WHICH ALL OF YOU HAVE A COPY FROM MR. AL BURANEK AS PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL TREASURE MINES AND MT. WHEELER MINES, AS PART OF HIS STATEMENT TODAY, ALSO PLEASE REFER TO A COPY OF THE LETTER IN MR. BURANEK'S STATEMENT FROM THE GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES.

AS YOU WILL NOTE, THIS PLACES THE MINERAL DEPOSITS OF THIS MOUNTAIN IN A WORLD CLASS. AS PART OF MY STATEMENT, I HAVE FURNISHED A MAP SHOWING THE VARIOUS MINING CLAIMS IN COLOR OF 18 INDIVIDUAL OWNERS. THIS IS FOUND ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT "B".

FREE ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATES, INC., MADE AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL AS DELINEATED IN H.R. 3302. SINCE THAT TIME THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PROPOSED PARK HAVE CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY IN SUBSEQUENT BILLS IN BOTH THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE. WE HAVE PREPARED A SUMMARY AND UPDATE. THIS STUDY POINTS OUT THAT FROM AN ECONOMIC STAND POINT THE VALUE OF THE PARK WILL BE INSIGNIFICANT COMPARED TO THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS THAT ARE AND CAN BE PRODUCED UNDER THE MULTIPLE USE SYSTEM. PLEASE REFER TO THIS ECONOMIC ANALYSIS CONTAINED IN MY STATEMENT ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT "C".

THE 44,000 ACRE PARK WILL STOP THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SKI AND YEAR ROUND RECREATION DEVELOPMENT. THIS DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN PROJECTED WITH SNOW MAKING EQUIPMENT AND IS ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE. IN ORDER TO PERMIT A SKI AND YEAR ROUND DEVELOPMENT, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO ELIMINATE THE FOLLOWING LAND FROM THE 44,000 ACRE PARK:

TOWNSHIP 13 NORTH, RANGE 68 EAST, M.D.B.&M.

	SW¼	160 ACRES
SECTION 2:	N½	320 ACRES
SECTION 3:	E½	320 ACRES

TOWNSHIP 14 NORTH, RANGE 68 EAST, M.D.B.&M.

(ELIMINATE ALL OF PARK AREA WITHIN)

SECTION 35:		320 ACRES
SECTION 36:	N½	320 ACRES
	TOTAL:	1,440 ACRES

THE PROJECTED COST OF THE SKI AND YEAR ROUND AREA IS BETWEEN $130,000,000.00 AND $150,000,000.00.

IF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS, NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND OTHER ACQUISITIONS UNDER THE NATIONAL PARK SERIVCE CONTINUES AT THIS RATE IT WILL BANKRUPT OUR COUNTRY FOR EXAMPLE; THE COST OF LAND ACQUISITION FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND THE CONTINUING ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS TO OPERATE THESE NATIONAL PARKS IS BECOMMING STAGGERING, FOR EXAMPLE; IN 1964 THE TOTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WAS $41,096,831.00. THE TOTAL RECEIPTS THAT YEAR WERE $5,912,958.00. IN 1986 THE REQUESTED APPROPRIATION TO KEEP THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE GOING IS APPROXIMATELY $840,000,000.00. IN OTHER WORDS, THE APPROPRIATION HAS INCREASED IN 22 YEARS A LITTLE OVER 21 TIMES. IF THE APPROPRIATION FOR PARKS INCREASES 21 TIMES IN THE NEXT 22 YEARS OUR APPROPRIATION FOR THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WILL BE APPROXIMATELY $17,640,000,000.00. THE INTEREST ALONG ON EACH YEARS APPROPRIATION AT 8% PER ANNUM IS $141,120,000.00. TODAY WHO CAN OBTAIN AN INTEREST RATE OF 8%?

ISN'T IT TIME THAT THIS NONSENCE OF CREATING ADDITIONAL PARKS STOP? I URGE YOU STRONGLY TO START EXERCISING FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND START RIGHT NOW BY DEFEATING THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK.

WHEN THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM WAS CREATED UNDER THE TITLE "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES" APPROVED AUGUST 26,.1916, THE PLAN OF ENVIRONMENTALISTS INCLUDING THE SIERRA CLUB HAS BEEN TO ROLL TIME, GEOLOGY, AND ECOSYSTEMS BACK TO THE DAY CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS DISCOVERED AMERICA (1492). OUR ANCESTORS ON

OTHER HAND, WHO REMAINED IN EUROPE HAVE USED A DIFFERENT POLICY FOR EUROPE. THE GRAZING OF LIVESTOCK, MINING, TIMBERING, RECREATION, ETC., EXIST SIDE BY SIDE AND ARE COMPATIBLE.

THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM CONTINUES AND THE TOTAL RESOURCES ARE NOT PLACED INSIDE OF A GLACIER, SO TO SPEAK. PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TRAVEL TO THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO ENJOY THE WONDERS AND BEAUTY WITHOUT HOURLY, DAILY, WEEKLY AND YEARLY BEING UNDER THE FULL CONTROL OF A ARMED NATIONAL PARK RANGER.

WHEN THE PARK SERVICE STARTED, FOR LAND TO BE QUALIFIED FOR PARK STATUS IT HAD TO MEET RIGID STANDARDS. THESE STANDARDS HAVE CONTINUALLY BEEN LOWERED. WITH RESPECT TO THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL, MR. JOSEPH F. GRIGGS, JR. IN HIS "A CRITICAL REVIEW OF THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL" HAS FACTUALLY DETERMINED THAT THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK DOES NOT HAVE PARK STATUS, YOU HAVE A COPY OF THE GRIGGS REPORT AS CONTAINED IN HIS STATEMENT.

I ALSO REFER YOU TO ANOTHER REPORT BY VIRLIS L. FISCHER, A COPY OF WHICH IS ENCLOSED IN MY STATEMENT, ATTACHED AS , EXHIBIT "D".

ALL OF US WHO ARE PART OF THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM FEAR THAT IF A NATIONAL PARK OF 44,000 ACRES IS ESTABLISHED, THE PARK WILL EXPAND AND EXPAND. WE COULD BEST DESCRIBE THIS EXPANSION BY COMPARING THE EXPANSION TO A WILD FIRE ON A PRAIRIE. PLEASE REFER TO RAMIFICATIONS OF FUTURE NATIONAL PARK EXPANSION PREPARED BY FREE ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATES, INC., AND CONTAINED IN JOSEPH F. GRIGGS JR.'s STATEMENT TO THIS COMMITTEE.

WE HAVE JUST COMPLETED A LIBERTY CELEBRATION. LET'S KEEP OUR LAND A SYMBOL OF LIBERTY AND FREEDOM BY NOT ADDING ANY MORE LANDS TO OUR NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.

THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT WHAT PRACTICALLY ALL OF THE HUNTERS IN THE STATE OF NEVADA ARE OPPOSED TO THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK. THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT WHAT PRACTICALLY ALL OF THE CATTLEMEN AND SHEEPMEN ARE OPPOSED TO THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK. ALMOST TO A MAN THE TIMBER PEOPLE, THE USERS OF FENCE POSTS, LODGE POLES, FIREWOOD, ETC., ARE OPPOSED TO A GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK. AS FAR AS WE KNOW ALL OF THE RECREATIONALISTS ARE OPPOSED TO A GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK.

NATIONALLY IT IS TRAGIC THAT 70,000 AMERICAN FAMILIES HAVE LOST LAND TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ALONE SINCE 1966. IN 1979, THERE WERE 21,000 LAND CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS UNDERWAY IN THE NATION, OF THOSE, MORE THAN 10,000 WERE UNDER THE GUISE OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT SUCH DICTATORIAL MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY OUR GOVERNMENT IN THE NAME OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

IN ONE OF OUR NEWEST STATES, ALASKA HAS BEEN PRACTICALLY TAKEN OVER BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND OTHER RESTRICTIVE LAND MEASURES. PLEASE REFER TO ATTACHED EXHIBIT "E" OF MY STATEMENT.

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IS NEVER SATISFIED, RIGHT NOW AT THIS VERY MOMENT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IS TRYING TO CARVE OUT ANOTHER PARK OF 50,000 ACRES NEAR PAWHUSKA, IN THE OSAGE HILLS OF OKLAHOMA. THEY ARE CALLING THIS THE NATIONS FIRST TALL GRASS PRAIRIE NATIONAL PRESERVE. THE NEW HEAD OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REFERS TO THIS AS FOLLOWS: "YOU HAVE A JEWEL HERE". WHEN THE FIRST PARK IN THIS NATION WAS CREATED IN 1872 THE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK WORDS LIKE CROWN JEWEL AND PRISTINE WILDERNESS WERE USED TO DESCRIBE THE AREA. IT APPEARS AS IF THE SAME WORDS HAVE BEEN USED FOR THE CREATION OF EVERY PARK SINCE THE FIRST NATIONAL PARK WAS CREATED.

APPARENTLY, THESE WORDS WORKED SO WELL FOR THE CREATION OF THE FIRST PARK, THE SAME WORDS HAVE BEEN USED DURING THE CREATION OF ALL PARKS, PARK PRESERVES, NATIONAL MONUMENTS, ETC.

WITH RESPECT TO INCOME GENERATED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM, WE HAVE THE FIGURE OF $5,912,958.00. I HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN THE TOTAL INCOME GENERATED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IN 1984 OR 1985. I DID RECEIVE A LETTER STATING THAT IN 1985, THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PRINTED 311,350 GOLDEN EAGLE PASSPORTS AT A COST OF $10,300.00, IN TURN, SALES OF THESE PASSPORTS GENERATED $1,125,000.00 IN REVENUE.

THE LETTER ALSO STATED THAT IN RECENT YEARS TOTAL REVENUES FOR PASSPORT SALES HAVE REMAINED IN THE 1.1 MILLION TO 1.2 MILLION RANGE ON AN ANNUAL BASIS.

I HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT THE SOLE SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR LAND ACQUISITION BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IS THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE ACT OF SEPTEMBER 3, 1986 (PUBLIC LAW 88-578,78 STAT. 897), IN ORDER TO: (1) PROVIDE FEDERAL

ASSISTANCE AND FUNDS TO THE STATES FOR THE PLANNING, ACQUISITION, AND DEVELOPMENT OF LAND AND WATER AREAS, AND (2) TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR FEDERAL ACQUISITION OF LAND.

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IS ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL FEDERAL BUREAUS AUTHORIZED TO USE THE FUNDS FOR LAND PURPOSES. INITIALLY, THE FUND CONSISTED FROM REVENUES DERIVED FROM SEVERAL SOURCES: INTEREST FEES COLLECTED AT FEDERAL RECREATION AREAS, RECEIPTS FROM THE SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY, AND THE MOTORBOAT FUEL TAX. THE ACT OF JULY 15, 1968 (PUBLIC LAW 90-401, 82 STAT. 354), CREATED AN ADDITIONAL REVENUE SOURCE BY DIRECTING THAT RECEIPTS UNDER THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LANDS ACT BE COVERED INTO THE FUND IN AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO MAKE THE TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME OF THE FUND REACH A LEVEL OF $200,000,000.00. SUBSEQUENT LEGISLATION INCREASED THE ANNUAL INCOME LEVEL OF THE FUND TO $900,000,000.00. EACH YEAR, APPROXIMATELY 75 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL INCOME COVERED INTO THE FUND IS DERIVED FROM OFFSHORE OIL LEASE RECEIPTS ACQUIRED UNDER THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LANDS ACT. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT, FOR FISCAL YEAR 1986, THE AMOUNT OF THE FUND'S ANNUAL INCOME TO BE DERIVED FROM OFFSHORE OIL LEASE RECEIPTS WILL BE APPROXIMATELY $747,000,000.00.

MONEYS COVERED INTO THE FUND ARE AVAILABLE FOR EXPENDITURE ONLY WHEN APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS. WE HAVE ENCLOSED A LIST SHOWING THE ANNUAL AMOUNTS OF APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE FUND FOR STATE ASSISTANCE AND FOR THE LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAMS OF ELIGIBLE FEDERAL BUREAUS, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. TO DATE, A TOTAL OF $2,275,800,252 HAS BEEN APPROPRIATED FROM THE FUND FOR THE LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERIVCE. AT THE END OF FISCAL YEAR 1985, THE UNAPPROPRIATED BALANCE OF THE FUND WAS APPROXIMATELY $3,600,000,000.00. AS INDICATED ABOVE, NONE OF THAT AMOUNT IS AVAILABLE TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE UNLESS AND UNTIL IT IS APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS.

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT RATHER THAN CONTINUING TO PURCHASE LANDS AND TAKING THESE LANDS OFF FROM THE TAX ROLLS IN CITIES, COUNTIES AND STATES THROUGHOUT THE NATION, THESE MONIES COULD BE BETTER SPENT TOWARD REDUCING OUR NATIONAL DEBT.

SOMETIMES I WONDER IF YOU UNDERSTAND OUR FORM OF GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE A CONSTITUTION THAT SAYS WE HAVE A REPUBLIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT, NOT A SOCIALISTIC GOVERNMENT, NOT A DICTATORSHIP, NOT A COMMUNISTIC GOVERNMENT. IN NO WAY UNDER OUR CONSTITUTION CAN YOU JUSTIFY LEGALLY WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO DO. PLEASE PERMIT ME TO EXPLAIN.

LAND SOVEREIGNTY IS BEING QUESTIONED BY TAX GROUPS IN MANY AREAS OF THE COUNTRY.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS ASSERTING STRONGER SOVEREIGNTY OVER ABOUT 56% OF THE LAND IN THE ELEVEN WESTERN STATES. TAX STUDY GROUPS REGARD THE TRADE-OFF OF FEDERAL GRANTS FOR REVENUE FROM LAND USERS AS UNFAIR.

THE SENATE'S PUBLIC LAND COMMITTEE FORMALLY REPORTED IN 1832: THE SPEEDY EXTINCTION OF THE FEDERAL TITLE WITHIN THEIR LIMITS IS NECESSARY TO THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE NEW STATES, TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR RESOURCES, TO THE SUBJECTION OF THEIR SOIL TO TAXATION, CULTIVATION, AND SETTLEMENT, AND THE PROPER ENJOYMENT OF THEIR JURISDICTION AND SOVEREIGNTY.[1]

IN THE OCTOBER 9, 1975, CONGRESSIONAL RECORD - HOUSE H 10015-H 10022, REPRESENTATIVE LARRY McDONALD OF GEORGIA, SPEAKING ON THE "LIBERTY AMENDMENT", STATED: "THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD NO AUTHORITY TO HOLD BACK ANY PUBLIC LANDS FROM THE STATES AS THEY WERE CREATED, OR TO 'TAKE' ANY LAND IN ANY STATE EXCEPT AS THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES."

"THE CONSTITUTION CONFIRMED THAT THE TERMS OF THE NORTHWEST ORDINANCE. ALL STATES WERE TO COME INTO THE UNION WITH RIGHTS AND POWERS EQUAL TO THE ORIGINAL STATE -- IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO PROPERTY RIGHTS WHATSOEVER. EXCEPT FIRST, AS LAND MIGHT BE PURCHASED, SECOND, WITH THE CONSENT OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE SAME SHALL BE, AND THIRD, FOR AGREED UPON AND NEEDFUL PURPOSES SUCH AS ARSENALS, MAGAZINES, FORTS, DOCKYARDS, ET CETERA."

"NOW WE FIND THAT ONLY TWO-THIRDS OF ONE (1%) PERCENT OF ALASKA WAS ORIGINALLY SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE STATE. IN NEVADA THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HOLDS 87 PERCENT OF THE LAND AREA, IN UTAH 66 PERCENT, IN OREGON 32 PERCENT, IN IDAHO 64 PERCENT, AND IN CALIFORNIA 45 PERCENT OF THE LAND AREA. UNDER THE LIBERTY AMENDMENT THE 40 PERCENT OF THE LAND AREA NOW UNDER FEDERAL CONTROL WILL BE RESOTRED TO STATE JURISDICTION." [2]

THE ORDINANCE OF 1787, CONFIRMED BY THE STATUTE OF AUGUST 7, 1789, PROVIDED "THAT THIS TERRITORY MUST BE ERECTED INTO STATES, AND HAVE THEIR ENTRANCE INTO THE UNION ON EQUAL TERMS WITH THE ORIGINAL

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[1] WORLD BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA, P. 3950

[2] FREEMAN REPORT, P. 5

STATES, AND BEAR THE SAME RELATION TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT AS ALL THE ORIGINAL STATES. THEY SHALL BE SETTLED AND FORMED INTO DISTINCT REPUBLICAN STATES, WHICH SHALL BECOME MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL UNION AND HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS OF SOVEREIGNTY, FREEDOM, AND INDEPENDENCE AS THE OTHER STATES."

WITHOUT THE SAME PROPORTION OF LAND AND SOVEREIGNTY AS ALL OF THE ORIGINAL STATES, THERE IS NO WAY THE PUBLIC LAND STATES CAN HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS OF SOVEREIGNTY, FREEDOM, AND INDEPENDENCE AS THE OTHER STATES.

THE TREATY WITH FRANCE, CONVEYING THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE IN 1803, CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE: "THE INHABITANTS OF THE CEDED TERRITORY SHALL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND ADMITTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION, TO THE ENJOYMENT OF ALL THE RIGHTS, ADVANTAGES, AND IMMUNITIES, OF THE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND IN THE MEANTIME, THEY SHALL BE MAINTAINED AND PROTECTED IN THE FREE ENJOYMENT OF THEIR LIBERTY, PROPERTY, AND THE RELIGION THEY PROFESS."

THE TREATY OF GUADALUPE HIDALGO COVERING THE MEXICAN CESSION IN 1848 CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE, ". . SHALL BE FORMED INTO FREE, SOVEREIGN, AND INDEPENDENT STATES AND INCORPORATED INTO THE UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND THE CITIZENS THEREOF SHALL BE ACCORDED THE ENJOYMENT OF ALL THE RIGHTS. ADVANTAGES, AND IMMUNITIES, AS CITIZENS OF THE ORIGINAL STATES."

PUBLIC LAND OWNERSHIP BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN OUR PUBLIC LAND STATES PRECLUDES OUR CITIZENS OF THESE STATES FROM ENJOYING ALL THE RIGHTS, ADVANTAGES AND IMMUNITIES AS CITIZENS OF THE ORIGINAL STATES. THE CITIZENS OF THE STATES HAVING A LESSER AMOUNT OF LAND CANNOT BE ON EQUAL TERMS WITH THE CITIZENS OF THE ORIGINAL STATES. CITIZENS OF THE PUBLIC LAND STATES IN NO WAY HAVE THE SAME EQUAL RIGHTS OF SOVEREIGNTY, FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE, LIBERTY, PROPERTY AND IMMUNITIES.

THE SUPREME COURT, EARLY IN THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY LAID DOWN THE RULES THAT "WHEN THE THIRTEEN ORIGINAL STATES ESTABLISHED THEIR INDEPENDENCE, EACH STATE BECAME THE OWNER OF THE VACANT AND UNAPPROPRIATED LANDS WITHIN ITS BORDERS." (PEOPLE vs. LIVINGSTON, 8 BARB, N.Y. 253; STATE vs. PINCKNEY, 22s 484).

THE SUPREME COURT ALSO SAID, "AND WHEN NEW STATES WERE FORMED OUT OF THE TERRITORY OF SUCH ORIGINAL STATES, AND ADMITTED INTO THE UNION, SUCH NEW STATES BECAME ENTITLED TO VACANT AND UNAPPROPRIATED LANDS WITHIN THEIR BORDERS . . ." (POLLARD vs. HAGEN, 3 HOW.) (U.S. 212 221 88 LAW ED. 565; UNITED STATES vs. CHANDLER BUNBAR WATER POWER CO., 152 FED. 25, 81 C.C.A. 221).

WHEN THE PUBLIC LAND STATES WERE ADMITTED TO THE UNION, THESE STATES AUTOMATICALLY WERE GIVEN ALL THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF THE ORIGINAL THIRTEEN STATES. IT WAS INTENDED BY THE FRAMERS OF THE CONSTITUTION THAT EACH STATE WOULD HAVE A GUARANTEE OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER ALL MATTERS WITHIN ITS BOUNDARIES EXCEPTING ONLY THOSE POWERS SPECIFICALLY GRANTED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEDERAL OWNERSHIP OF LAND WITHIN THE PUBLIC LAND STATES AND OTHER STATES WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF SAID STATES IS IN VIOLATION OF THE CONSTITUTION. ARITCLE IV, SECTION III, OF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION PROVIDES: THE CONGRESS SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO DISPOSE TERRITORIES OR OTHER PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE UNITED STATES, AND NOTHING IN THIS CONSTITUTION SHALL BE SO CONSTRUED AS TO PREJUDICE ANY CLAIM OF THE UNITED STATES OR OF ANY PARTICULAR STATE."

THE CONSTITUTION FURTHER PROVIDES: "NEW STATES MAY BE ADMITTED BY THE CONGRESS INTO THIS UNION; BUT NO NEW STATES SHALL BE FORMED OR ERECTED WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF ANY OTHER STATE. . . "

IT WAS NOT THE INTENT OF THE FRAMERS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RETAIN PUBLIC LANDS WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE STATES, EXCEPT FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES AND UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS. ARTICLE I, SECTION 8, PARAGRAPH 17 OF THE CONSTITUTION EXPLAINS THE EXTENT OF FEDERAL JURISDICTION AND POWER OVER LANDS WITHIN THE DIFFERENT STATES AS FOLLOWS: "TO EXERCISE EXCLUSIVE LEGISLATION IN ALL CASES WHATSOEVER, OVER SUCH DISTRICT, (NOT EXCEEDING TEN MILES SQUARE) AS MAY BE CESSION OF PARTICULAR STATES, AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF CONGRESS BECOME THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND TO EXERCISE LIKE AUTHORITY OVER ALL PLACES PURCHASED, BY THE CONSENT OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE SAME SHALL BE, FOR THE ERECTION OF FORTS, MAGAZINES, ARSENALS, DOCKYARDS, AND OTHER NEEDFUL BUILDINGS. AND TO MAKE ALL LAWS WHICH SHALL

BE NECESSARY AND PROPER FOR CARRYING INTO EXECUTION THE FOREGOING POWERS AND ALL OTHER POWERS VESTED BY THIS CONSTITUTION IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OR IN ANY DEPARTMENT OR OFFICE THEREOF."

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THROUGH ITS BUREAUS, AGENCIES, AND SERVICES ADMINISTERING PUBLIC LANDS, HAS USURPED THE RIGHTS OF THE CITIZENS OF THE STATES HAVING PUBLIC LANDS WIHTIN THEIR BORDERS, CURTAILING DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES.

EVERY TIME YOU CREATE ANOTHER NATIONAL PARK YOU FREEZE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR ALL TIME. THE RESOURCES YOU FREEZE FOR ALL TIME ARE PART OF OUR FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM. THE ONLY SOURCE OF NEW WEALTH IS FROM THE EARTH, THE LAND AND THE WATER. A NATION THAT DOES NOT ALLOW ITS NATURAL RESOURCES TO BE DEVELOPED WILL BECOME A WEAK AND POOR NATION. ITS SEEMS TO ME THAT BEFORE ANYONE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE OR A NATIONAL OR STATE OFFICE, THAT PERSON SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO PASS A FULL COURSE IN BASIC ECONOMICS. RIGHT NOW, WHILE OUR NATION IS GETTING FARTHER AND FARTHER IN DEBT, (OUR NATIONAL DEBT IS NOW APPROACHING THREE TRILLION DOLLARS), YOU SHOULD NOT BE SPENDING MONEY FOR DEVELOPING PARKS AS IF MONEY WAS GOING OUT OF STYLE. IF ANY MONEY IS APPROPRIATED, IT SHOULD BE FOR AN OBJECTIVE STUDY.

LET ME TELL YOU HOW IMPORTANT EACH DOLLAR OF NEW WEALTH CREATED FROM OUR RESOURCES IS TO OUR ECONOMY. FOR EXAMPLE: A NEW DOLLAR CREATED FROM OUR BASIC RESOURCES HAS THE SAME EFFECT AS A DROP OF BLOOD IN THE HUMAN BODY. IT IS A CIRCULATING MEDIUM. IT GOES OVER AND OVER AGAIN. WE FIND THAT THE HEART OF MAN, (ASK ANY DOCTOR), BEATS AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT SEVENTY-SIX (76) TIMES EVERY MINUTE, AND THAT IT HANDLES FOUR OUNCES OF BLOOD EVERY TIME IT BEATS. IN OTHER WORDS, IT HANDLES NINETEEN POUNDS IN A MINUTE, OVER TWELVE TONS IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, AND YET THERE ARE ONLY ABOUT EIGHTEEN POUNDS OF BLOOD IN THE HUMAN BODY. YET, IT GOES OVER AND OVER AGAIN. IT IS EXACTLY THE SAME WITH THE DOLLAR. IT IS CALCULATED THAT EVERY DOLLAR DOES AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS WORTH OF WORK IN A YEAR, AND IT HAS BEEN KNOWN TO DO MORE THAN THAT IN A SINGLE WEEK. TOURIST DOLLARS FIRST HAVE TO BE CREATED FROM OUR RESOURCES. ALSO, RIGHT NOW, ALL THE GAS AND OIL USED IN CARS OR BUSES PROVIDING PEOPLE WITH TRANSPORTATION TO THE PARKS DOES

NOT REMAIN TO IMPROVE THE LOCAL ECONOMY TO ANY GREAT EXTENT. AT LEAST 40% GOES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES; MOST OF THE BALANCE GOES BACK TO THE SOURCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

MINING, RANCHING AND LUMBERING HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT TO THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF EASTERN NEVADA. THE CITIES AND TOWNS OF ELY, EAST ELY, RUTH, MCGILL, CHERRY CREEK, LUND, OCEOLA, AND BAKER WOULD NEVER HAVE EXISTED HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR UNRESTRICTED FREEDOM TO DEVELOP THESE NATURAL RESOURCES.

THE RESOURCES ON THE SNAKE RANGE WHERE THE PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK IS PROPOSED CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT RESOURCES: DEER, FUR-BEARING ANIMALS, LANDS ON WHICH TO GRAZE DOMESTIC ANIMALS, PINE TREES FOR PINENUTS, PINE, JUNIPER, MAHOGANY, CEDAR, ALL POPULAR FOR FIREWOOD. ALSO, THERE EXISTS SPRUCE, WHITE PINE, FOXTAIL PINE, AND MANY OTHER TYPES OF TREES FOR LUMBER. THERE ARE, IN ADDITION, EXTENSIVE MINERAL RESOURCES DISCOVERED AND UNDISCOVERED. PLUS, STREAMS OF WATER FOR MINING, IRRIGATION, AND GENERATION OF POWER ARE PRESENT.

I WOULD LIKE TO GO BACK IN HISTORY A FEW YEARS TO 1974 TO STATEMENTS MADE REGARDING MINING AND MINERALS BY ROBERT STARR WAITE IN HIS THESIS "THE PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK: A GEOGRAPHICAL INTERPRETATION OF THE SOUTHERN SNAKE RANGE, NEVADA." UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES, P.H.D., 1974.

"MINING HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN THE MOST IMPORTANT ECONOMIC ACTIVITY ON THE SNAKE RANGE. OVER THE PAST ONE HUNDRED YEARS A VARIETY OF ORES HAVE BEEN EXTRACTED, WITH GOLD AND TUNGSTEN, AND LESSER AMOUNTS OF LEAD AND SILVER, BEING THE MOST IMPORTANT. IN ADDITION THERE IS ALSO A LARGE UNWORKED DEPOSIT OF BERYLLIUM THAT COULD BE DEVELOPED AT SOME FUTURE TIME. BECAUSE CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE RANGE ARE HIGHLY MINERALIZED, SIX MINING DISTRICTS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED. THEY INCLUDE: THE (1) OSCEOLA, (2) TUNGSTEN, (3) MT. WASHINGTON AND (4) MINERVA DISTRICTS ON THE WESTERN FLANK; AND (5) SNAKE AND (6) LEXINGTON DISTRICTS ON THE EASTERN SLOPE. THESE DISTRICTS ARE SHOWN IN FIGURE 36, ALONG WITH THEIR GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION, PRINCIPAL MINERALS MINED AND YEAR OF DISCOVERY. NAMES PLACED IN PARENTHESIS ARE FORMER NAMES GIVEN TO THE DISTRICTS THAT ARE NO LONGER USED TODAY. THIS SECTION CONTAINS A HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE PRINCIPAL LOCAL MINING CENTERS, WHICH ARE DISCUSSED IN THE

CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER IN WHICH THEY WERE DISCOVERED AND DEVELOPED.

SNAKE MINING DISTRICT (SILVER) (1869)

THE FIRST ORE DISCOVERED WAS SILVER, WHICH WAS FOUND IN 1869 AT TWO LOCATIONS ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE RANGE. THE FIRST DISCOVERY WAS MADE IN FEBRUARY WHEN HIGH GRADE ORE WAS REPORTED IN SNAKE CREEK CANYON. THIS LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CAMP BONITA AND THE BONITA (SNAKE) MINING DISTRICT, THE FIRST MINING DISTRICT ORGANIZED ON THE RANGE. HERE MINERALIZED VEINS CONTAINING HIGH GRADE SILVER CHLORIDE ORE WERE FOUND IN GRANITE. ALTHOUGH SOME RICH SILVER WAS EXTRACTED, PRODUCTION WAS MEAGER AND NO MINES OF IMPORTANCE DEVELOPED. POSSIBLY ONLY A FEW WAGONLOADS OF ORE WERE EVER HAULED FROM THE AREA.

THE SECOND SILVER DISCOVERY WAS MADE THE FOLLOWING MONTH ON MARCH 3, 1869, WHEN A SHOSHONE INDIAN LED PROSPECTORS TO AN OLD INDIAN SILVER MINE IN WILLIAMS CREEK CANYON.[218] HERE SILVER CHLORIDE-BEARING VEINS WERE PRESENT IN LIMESTONE. ON THE SAME DAY THE DISCOVERY WAS MADE, THE SHOSHONE MINING DISTRICT WAS ORGANIZED AND PROSPECTORS BEAGN TO FLOCK INTO THE AREA.[219] SOME OF THE FIRST LOCATIONS WERE MADE ON MINERAL HILL, THE LOW KNOB ON THE NORTH SIDE OF WILLIAMS CREEK CANYON. ALTHOUGH SOME RICH ORE WAS FOUND, THE MINES DID NOT PROVE PROFITABLE AND THE DISTRICT WAS ABANDONED ABOUT 1876.[220]

IN 1890 A THIRD SILVER STRIKE WAS MADE IN CAN YOUNG CANYON SOUTHWEST OF BAKER.[221] SOME VERY RICH ORE WAS MINED AND THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF EXCITEMENT OVER THE DISCOVERY. HOWEVER, LIKE THE TWO FORMER FINDS, THE SILVER WAS NOT PRESENT IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITY TO BE PROFITABLE AND THE PROJECT WAS ABANDONED.

IN ADDITION TO THESE ACTIVITIES THERE WERE ALSO MANY OTHER LONE PROSPECTORS WHO CAME INTO THE SNAKE RANGE COUNTRY IN SEARCH OF MINERAL WEALTH. MANY OF THESE MEN ARE LITTLE KNOWN, BUT REMAINS OF THEIR WORK ARE STILL SEEN IN THE AREA. ONE SUCH INDIVIDUAL WAS PETER DIESHMAN WHO BUILT A CABIN IN UPPER BAKER CREEK CANYON (PLATE 240), WHERE HE SPENT MANY YEARS PROSPECTING FOR SILVER AND GOLD. ALTHOUGH HE NEVER STRUCK IT RICH, IT WAS MEN SUCH AS THIS THAT HELPED TO OPEN THE BACK COUNTRY FOR LATER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

STILL OTHER VISITORS CAME FOR LESS DESIRABLE REASONS, SUCH AS CANFIELD YOUNG, AN OUTLAW WHO HID IN CAN YOUNG CANYON ON THE EAST SLOPE IN THE 1870'S.[222]

OSCEOLA MINING DISTRICT (GOLD) (1872)*

THE OSCEOLA MINING DISTRICT IS LOCATED NORTHWEST OF WHEELER PEAK BETWEEN SACRAMENTO PASS AND PINE CREEK CANYON (FIGURE 36). THIS DISTRICT WAS ORGANIZED IN 1872, WHEN GOLD WAS FIRST DISCOVERED AT OSCEOLA, WITH LESSER FINDS MADE AT HOGUM, AND THE WEAVER CREEK AND SUMMIT DIGGINGS AREAS NEAR SACRAMENTO PASS. EACH OF THESE CENTERS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH MINERALIZED VEINS WHERE GRANITIC INTRUSIONS HAVE PENETRATED THE LOCAL COUNTRY ROCK, A CHARACTERISTIC PHENOMENON ON THE NORTHWEST PART OF THE RANGE AND ADJACENT MT. MORIAH. IN ADDITION, OTHER MINERAL DISCOVERIES IN THE DISTRICT INCLUDED TUMGSTEN IN 1916, PHOSPHATE ROCK IN 1917, LEAD IN 1918, AND A LITTLE SILVER FOUND IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE GOLD BEARING VEINS.[223] ALTHOUGH SOME LEAD WAS SHIPPED IN 1918, THESE LATTER FINDS HAVE ONLY HAD SPORADIC DEVELOPMENT. BLACK HORSE IS ALSO INCLUDED IN THIS STUDY, AN ABANDONED GOLD MINING CAMP LOCATED IN THE BLACK HORSE MINING DISTRICT ON THE SOUTH SLOPE OF MT. MORIAH. BECAUSE OF ITS SITUATION ON THE SAME MINERALIZED BELT AS OSCEOLA, IT IS ECONOMICALLY TIED TO THIS CENTER.

OSCEOLA (1877)

OSCEOLA IS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS GOLD PRODUCING TOWNS IN NEVADA AND IS UNIQUE IN THAT IT WAS THE LARGEST GOLD MINING CENTER IN WHITE PINE COUNTY. IT IS LOCATED IN GRUBSTAKE GULCH AT AN ELEVATION OF 6,800 FEET, IN THE DRY FOOTHILL BELT SOUTHWEST OF SACRAMENTO PASS.[224] OF THE MORE THAT 250 GHOST TOWNS IN THE GREAT BASIN, THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING. DURING ITS EXISTENCE IT PROVED TO BE THE LONGEST LIVED PLACER TOWN IN THE REGION: IT PRODUCED THE LARGEST GOLD NUGGET EVER FOUND IN NEVADA, AND POSSIBLY THE UNITED STATES: AND IT IS KNOWN FOR THE HISTORIC OSCEOLA DITCH, AN INGENIOUS SCHEME DEVISED TO CARRY WATER FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE RANGE TO SUPPLY THE LOCAL HYDRAULIC MINING OPERATION. EVEN ITS NAME IS UNIQUE IN THAT IT WAS NAMED FOR "OSCEOLA," THE SEMINOLE INDIAN CHIEF WHO LED THE FIGHT AGAINST THE U.S. TROOPS IN FLORIDA IN 1835.[225] THIS APPELLATION WAS ADOPTED BECAUSE A SOUTHERNER WAS AMOUNG THE EARLY MINERS WHO DISCOVERED GOLD IN THE AREA.

*INSERTED COMMENT: Not included within the boundaries of the proposed Great Basin National Park

DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT

GOLD WAS INITIALLY DISCOVERED AT OSCEOLA IN AUGUST, 1872 BY JOSEPH WATSON AND FRANK HICKS FROM PIOCHE, WHO FOUND GOLD-BEARING QUARTZ VEINS IN THE AREA.[226] NEWS OF THE DISCOVERY SOON ATTRACTED OTHER PROSPECTORS, AND TWO MONTHS LATER THE OSCEOLA MINING DISTRICT WAS ORGANIZED. ALTHOUGH THE LODE GOLD WAS WORKED TO SOME EXTENT, IT WAS RELATIVELY DIFFICULT TO EXTRACT FROM THE QUARTZ VEINS. CONSEQUENTLY, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1877, WHEN JOHN VERSAN AND OTHERS DISCOVERED RICH PLACER DEPOSITS IN THE ALLUVIAL GRAVELS OF DRY GULCH, THAT THE REAL MINING BOOM BEGAN. IN THAT YEAR OSCEOLA OFFICIALLY CAME INTO EXISTENCE, AND WITHIN A REATIVELY SHORT TIME A TENT ROOM OF FOUR TO SIX HUNDRED PEOPLE SPRANG UP IN GRUBSTAKE GULCH (PLATE 241).[227] ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NEVER AN UNUSUALLY LARGE POPULATION INFLUX, THE TOWN DID GROW STEADILY IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS AND ATTAINED A POPULATION OF ABOUT 1,500 PEOPLE (PLATE 242).[228] BY THE EARLY 1880'S THERE WERE THREE STORES: THE (1) GLASCOCK-MARRIOTT STORE (PLATE 243), (2) HECKETHORN STORE AND (3) SCOTT STORE: A (4) POST OFFICE, (5) RESTAURANT, (6) BUTCHERSHOP, (7) BLACKSMITH SHOP (PLATE 244) AND (8) SLAB-FASHIONED JAIL; ONE OF THE FINEST (9) ASSAY OFFICES IN NEVADA; AND THREE (10) SALOONS, ONE OF WHICH WAS A "RIDE-IN" TYPE WHERE A PERSON COULD RIDE RIGHT UP TO THE BAR, ORDER A DRINK, AND STILL STAY MOUNTED ON HIS HORSE.[229] AT THE HEIGHT OF ITS EXISTENCE, TWENTY BUILDINGS LINED THE MAIN STREET. SURROUNDING THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT WERE THE MINER'S HOMES, CONSTRUCTED ON THE ADJACENT HILLSIDES IN A RANDOM PATTERN. ALSO A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER, THE OSCEOLA NUGGET, A FOUR-PAGE PUBLICATION, WENT TO PRESS IN 1903.[230] SOON THE TOWN BECAME A SIGNIFICANT TRADE CENTER FOR VICINAL MINING CAMPS AND RANCHES.

DURING THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE OSCEOLA PRODUCED $30,000 IN GOLD, REPORTED BY THE WELLS FARGO COMPANY IN SHIPMENTS MADE TO THEIR REFINERIES. THIS PRODUCTION CAME FROM 40 PLACER CLAIMS AND 60 QUARTZ CLAIMS LOCATED IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA (PLATE 245). [231] IN TIME THE TOTAL PRODUCTION FROM THE OSCEOLA MINING DISTRICT AMOUNTED TO BETWEEN FIVE AND SIX MILLION DOLLARS IN FINE GOLD AND GOLD NUGGETS (TABLE XI), WITH SOME OF THE NUGGETS VALUED AT THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS.[232]. THE LARGEST ONE WAS FOUND BY A MAN NAMED DARLING IN MAY 1877, WHILE STRIPPING GROUND TO BE SLUICED IN THE SPRING RUNOFF. HE TOOK THE NUGGET TO TAYLOR, A MINING CAMP SOUTH OF ELY, WHERE IT WAS ESTIMATED TO BE WORTH $10,500. IT WEIGHED 25 POUNDS AND WAS LATER MELTED DOWN AND

MOLDED INTO A NUMBER OF GOLD BARS.[233] ASIDE FROM THE FORTUNATE FEW WHO FOUND THESE NUGGETS, THE TRADITIONAL WAY BY WHICH MOST PROSPECTORS MADE THEIR FORTUNE WAS SIMPLY BY PANNING THE STREAM GRAVELS FOR FLAKES OF ALLUVIAL GOLD (PLATE 246).

STAMP MILLS

AFTER THE LODE GOLD WAS MINED IT HAD TO BE SEPARATED FROM THE COUNTRY ROCK. ORIGINALLY THIS SEPARATION PROCESS WAS DONE BY PRIMITIVE ARRASTRAS, BUT IN 1878 A FIVE STAMP MILL WAS CONSTRUCTED IN DRY GULCH ONE MILE BELOW THE TOWN (PLATE 247). IN THE 1880'S A SECOND STAMP MILL WAS ESTABLISHED ON MILL CREEK IN OLD MILL GULCH, AND IN THE EARLY 1900'S A THIRD STAMP MILL WAS BUILT AT WILLOW PATCH SPRING, THREE MILES EAST OF SACRAMENTO PASS.[234] THESE LATTER TWO MILLS WERE NEEDED WHEN THE OSCEOLA MINING DISTRICT WAS ONE OF THE LEADING PRODUCING AREAS IN THE STATE.

IN PREPARING THE GOLD FOR SMELTING AND REFINING THE FIRST STEP WAS TO SEPARATE IT FROM THE GANGUE, OR VALUELESS MATERIAL IN THE ROCK MATRIX. BECAUSE GOLD IS HEAVIER THAN MOST MINERALS, STAMP MILLS OR CONCENTRATORS USING CRUSHING AND GRINDING MACHINERY WITH WATER AND GRAVITY CAN CONCENTRATE THE ORE BY BREAKING UP THE ROCK AND THEN SEPARTING OUT THE GOLD BY A FLOTATION PROCESS. IN THE EARLY DAYS THE CONCENTRATING PLANTS WERE REFERRED TO AS STAMP MILLS WHICH CRUSHED THE ROCK WITH A MORTAR AND PESTLE, IN ORDER TO REMOVE THE WASTE MATERIAL. A ONE STAMP MILL HAD ONE MORTAR AND PESTLE, WHILE A TWO, THREE, FOUR OR TWENTY STAMP MILL HAD COMPARABLE NUMBERS OF THIS EQUIPMENT. AFTER THE CRUSHING AND GRINDING PROCESS WAS COMPLETED, THE GOLD WAS THEN "PANNED" OR AGITATED WITH WATER. IN THIS PROCESS IT WAS PLACED IN A VAT WHERE THE HEAVIER METAL SANK TO THE BOTTOM AND THE LIGHTER RESIDUE ROSE TO THE SURFACE AND FLOATED AWAY. THE CONCENTRATES WERE THEN COLLECTED AND SHIPPED TO WESTERN SMELTING AND REFINING PLANTS TO FURTHER PURIFY THE METAL. BECAUSE WATER WAS THE PRIME REQUISITE IN THE CONCENTRATION PROCESS, THE STAMP MILLS HAD TO BE LOCATED NEAR A RELIABLE SUPPLY. THE MILLS WERE ALSO LOCATED NEAR THE MINES WHEREVER POSSIBLE, IN ORDER TO SAVE THE EXPENSE OF HAULING TONS OF WORHTLESS ROCK LONG DISTANCES OVER ROUGH MOUNTAIN ROADS.

HOGUM (1889)

FOLLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OSCEOLA, PROSPECTORS BEGAN TO SEARCH THE NEARBY HILLS FOR OTHER GOLD DEPOSITS. THIS RESULTED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO SMALL SATELLITE MINING CAMPS, HOGUM, IN 1889 AND BLACK HORSE IN 1906, WHICH WERE SITUATED AT OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE SAME MINERALIZED BELT UNDERLYING OSCEOLA (FIGURE 36). THIS BELT

EXTENDS IN A NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST DIRECTION FOR A DISTANCE OF 25 MILES, AND HAS A WIDTH OF ABOUT 10 MILES.[248] WHEN GOLD WAS DISCOVERED IN THESE TWO AREAS CLAIMS WERE STAKED IN ALL DIRECTIONS, MANY OF WHICH PROVED TO BE PRODUCTIVE. IN FACT, THIS HAS PROVEN TO BE ONE OF THE RICHEST GOLD-BEARING ZONES IN THE GREAT BASIN.

HOGUM IS LOCATED FOUR MILES SOUTH OF OSCEOLA, AND EAST OF WINDY PEAK, AT AN ELEVATION OF 6,500 FEET. GOLD WAS INITIALLY DISCOVERED HERE IN 1887 BY BOONE TILFORD AND SOME OF HIS PARTNERS, AT WHICH TIME THEY STAKED OUT TWO HUNDRED ACRES OF GROUND.[249] WHEN NEWS OF THE DISCOVERY REACHED OSCEOLA, THE MINERS RUSHED TO THE AREA: BUT UPON THEIR ARRIVAL, FOUND THAT ALL OF THE AVAILABLE CLAIMS HAD BEEN STAKED. IN DISGUST THEY CALLED THE PLACE "HOGUM" BECAUSE A FEW INDIVIDUALS HAD "HOGGED" ALL OF THE PROPERTY. BECAUSE OF THIS MONOPOLY THE SETTLEMENT NEVER BECAME VERY LARGE AND HAD A POPULATION OF LESS THAN 100 PEOPLE.[250]

GOLD AT HOGUM WAS EXTRACTED LARGELY FROM SURFACE ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS, BUT UNDERGROUND MINING WAS ALSO PRACTICED AS WELL. IN 1891, FOR EXAMPLE, BOONE TILFORD STRUCK A RICH LIMESTONE LAYER, NOW KNOWN AS THE HOGUM BAR, THAT IS ABOUT THREE MILES LONG AND ONE MILE WIDE. FROM ONE 20-ACRE CLAIM ALONE, CENTERED ON THE STALWART MINE, OVER $65,000 IN GOLD WAS RECOVERED.[252] THE GOLD WAS NORMALLY OBTAINED BY DRY WASHING METHODS BECAUSE WATER FROM THE WEST DITCH WAS SELDOM USED. ONE OF THE RARE EXCEPTIONS TO THIS PATTERN OCCURRED IN 1901 WHEN THE DITCHES WERE BEING CLEANED AT OSCEOLA AND THE WATER WAS NOT BEING USED. ON THIS OCCASION TILFORD CONTRACTED FOR THE WATER FOR ONE DAY AND SLUICED OUT ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS IN GOLD FROM HIS CLAIMS.[253] THIS CAMP REACHED ITS GREATEST PRODUCTION IN THE EARLY 1890'S, BUT AS LATE AS 1906 THE GOLD BAR PLACER MINING COMPANY WAS WORKING CLAIMS JOINING THE STALWART MINE AND RECOVERING GOLD IN A SHAFT AND DRIFT SYSTEM.[254] WATER WAS LATER BROUGHT IN FOR SLUICING THE ORE, BUT LIKE OTHER WHITE PINE COUNTY CENTERS, PRODUCTION DECLINED AND HOGUM GRADUALLY PHASED INTO OBLIVION.

BLACK HORSE (1906)

BLACK HORSE IS LOCATED IN BLACK HORSE CANYON, THREE MILES EAST OF SACRAMENTO PASS, AT AN ELEVATION OF 7,000 FEET (PLATE 254). GOLD WAS DISCOVERED HERE ON MARCH 6,1906, by TOM WATKINS WHILE HE WAS OUT LOOKING FOR A LOST BLACK HORSE.[255] NEWS OF THE DISCOVERY BROUGHT A

RUSH OF MINERS TO THE AREA, AND OVER ONE HUNDRED MINING CLAIMS WERE STAKED THE FIRST DAY. WITHIN A YEAR THE ORIGINAL TENT TOWN CHANGED INTO A BUSY COMMUNITY OF 400 RESIDENTS, WITH THREE STORES, THREE SALOONS, TWO BOARDING HOUSES, A BLACKSMITH SHOP, BARBER SHOP, SCHOOL POST OFFICE AND RED LIGHT DISTRICT.[256] WATER WAS SECURED FROM TWO WELLS, BUT AFTER A TYPHOID FEVER OUTBREAK THE DOMESTIC SUPPLY WAS HAULED FROM WILLOW PATCH SPRING NEAR U.S. HIGHWAY 6-50, TWO MILES SOUTH OF THE TOWN.

THE LARGEST MINE AT BLACK HORSE WAS THE SAN PEDRO WITH TWENTY-ONE CLAIMS. THE ORE VEIN WAS HORSE-SHOE SHAPED AND THE MINE TUNNEL WAS SEMI-CIRCULAR IN FORM AND 914 FEET LONG. OTHER IMPORTANT STRIKES INCLUDED THE BLACK HORSE CLAIMS THAT SOLD FOR $75,000 AND THE MABEL CLAIMS, WHERE ORE WAS ASSAYED AT THE ASTONDING FIGURE OF $100,000 PER TON.[257] IT IS LIKELY THIS LATTER MINE CONTAINED ONE OF THE RICHEST GOLD DEPOSITS IN THE WORLD. THE ORE FROM BLACK HORSE WAS PROCESSED AT WILLOW PATCH SPRING, WHERE A TWENTY-STAMP MILL WAS ERECTED TO SERVE THE AREA. HOWEVER, BY 1914 THE RICHEST ORES WERE EXHAUSTED AND THE TOWN WAS ABANDONED. TODAY THE OLD MINES, COMMUNITY CEMETERY (PLATE 255) AND EMPTY TOWNSITE, ARE ALL THAT REMAIN OF THIS THRIVING MINING CAMP.

TUNGSTEN AND MINERVA MINING DISTRICTS (TUNGSTEN) (1900)

AFTER GOLD, TUNGSTEN RANKS AS THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT MINERAL PRODUCED ON THE SNAKE RANGE. THE PRINCIPAL TUNGSTEN ORES ARE SCHEELITE AND HUBERNITE, PRESENT IN QUARTZ VEINS THAT HAVE BEEN INTRUDED INTO THE PROSPECT MOUNTAIN QUARTZITE AND PIOCHE SHALE NORTH OF PYRAMID PEAK. THE HOST ROCK IN THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SECTIONS IS THE MT. WASHINGTON LIMESTONE, PARTICULARLY THE POLE CANYON, ORIOLE AND BOX CANYON MEMBERS OF THIS FORMATION. CONSEQUENTLY, TUNGSTEN IS WIDESPREAD AND IS FOUND IN ALL OF THE MINING DISTRICTS IN VARYING AMOUNTS. HOWEVER, THE GREATEST PRODUCTION HAS COME FROM MINES LOCATED ON THE WESTERN FLANK OF THE RANGE: PRIMARILY FROM THE HIGHLAND RIDGE SECTION IN THE MINERVA MINING DISTRICT; AND SECONDARILY FROM THE HUM MINE BASIN IN THE TUNGSTEN MINING DISTRICT, WITH LESSER AMOUNTS FROM THE SNAKE, LEXINGTON, MT. WASHINGTON AND OSCEOLA DISTRICTS, RESPECTIVELY. MOST OF THIS PRODUCTION WAS ASSOCIATED WITH THE TWO RECENT WORLD WARS, WHEN GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES MADE PRODUCTION HIGHLY PROFITABLE. DURING WORLD

WAR I (1914-1918), FOR EXAMPLE, MOST OF THE CURRENTLY KNOWN DEPOSITS WERE DISCOVERED, WHEN TUNGSTEN WAS USED IN MUNITIONS AND AS AN ALLOY IN STEEL. THESE DEPOSITS WERE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE TUNGSTEN IS ONE OF THE FEW MAJOR ALLOYS IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS DEFICIENT, WITH DOMESTIC PRODUCTION FILLING ONLY ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF THE NATION'S NEEDS.[258] IN WORLD WAR II (1939-1945) TUNGSTEN PRODUCTION WAS AGAIN RE-ESTABLISHED, BUT TO A LESSER DEGREE BECAUSE SOME DEPOSITS, SUCH AS THOSE IN HUB MINE BASIN, HAD BEEN LARGELY EXHAUSTED AND WERE NO LONGER PROFITABLE TO MINE. STILL PRODUCTION AMOUNTED TO A CONSIDERABLE VOLUME, AND THE WAR CREATED A SECOND, BUT TEMPORARY ECONOMIC BOOM IN THE AREA.

HUB (1900)

THE HUB MINING CAMP WAS LOCATED IN HUB MINE BASIN, WEST OF BAKER PEAK, AT AN ELEVATION OF 7,650 FEET (FIGURE 36) (PLATE 256). THIS CAMP WAS THE CENTER OF THE TUNGSTEN MINING DISTRICT, EXTENDING FROM PINE CREEK CANYON SOUTHWARD TO WILLIAMS CREEK CANYON, WHICH WAS ORGANIZED... NEXT FOUR YEARS A NUMBER OF CLAIMS WERE DEVELOPED, BUT IN 1904 THEY WERE SOLD TO THE TUNGSTEN MINING AND MILLING COMPANY, WHICH SHIPPED A LITTLE ORE AND CONTINUED THEIR DEVELOPMENT.[259] IN 1909 THE HUBNERITE-TUNGSTEN COMPANY, LATER RENAMED THE U.S. TUNGSTEN CORPORATION, PURCHASED THIS PROPERTY AND ERECTED A 50-TON CONCENTRATION MILL ON WILLIAMS CREEK. THIS MILL OPERATED IN 1911, AND AGAIN IN 1915 AND 1916 DURING WORLD WAR I.[260] PRODUCTION FIGURES FOR 1911 AND 1916 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE XII, THE TWO MOST SIGNIFICANT PRODUCTION YEARS, AMOUNTING TO A TOTAL VALUE OF $672,353. THIS ACTIVITY CHANGED HUB INTO A THRIVING MINING CAMP; AND IN 1915, FIFTY MEN WERE EMPLOYED BY THE COMPANY.[261] MOST OF THE PRODUCTION CAME FROM NINE MINES LOCATED ON THE HILLSIDE IMMEDIATELY NORTHEAST OF THE CAMP BETWEEN SCHEELITE AND HUBNERITE GULCHES. HERE TUNGSTEN OUTCROPS OCCUR BETWEEN ELEVATIONS OF 7,500 AND 9,000 FEET, WHERE THE MINE TUNNELS WERE DRIVEN INTO THE STEEPLY INCLINED QUARTZ VEINS. AFTER THE ORE WAS MINED AND CONCENTRATED IT WAS TRANSPORTED OVER ROUGH DIRT ROAD TO ELY, 40 MILES NORTH, WHERE IT WAS LOADED ABOARD THE NORTHERN NEVADA RAILWAY AND SHIPPED TO EASTERN REFINERIES. THE SHIPMENT OF THIS ORE WAS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT IN THE WINTER WHEN HEAVY SNOWS BLOCKED THE ROADS. IN 1916, FOR EXAMPLE, THE SNOW WAS MORE THAN TWO FEET DEEP AND EVERY CONVEYANCE WAS STALLED. IN ORDER TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM, EIGHTEEN-MULE PACK TRAINS WERE USED TO TRANSPORT THE ORE TO ELY.[262]

MINERVA (1915)

MINERVA IS LOCATED IN SOUTHERN SPRING VALLEY AT AN ELEVATION OF 5,835 FEET, AND DURING THE TWO TUNGSTEN ERAS IT WAS THE LARGEST MILLING CENTER IN THE AREA. IT WAS ESTABLISHED TO CONCENTRATE THE ORES PRODUCED IN THE MINERVA MINING DISTRICT, ENCOMPASSING THE WESTERN FLANK OF HIGHLAND RIDGE SOUTH OF SWALLOW CREEK CANYON (FIGURE 36). HERE THERE ARE SIX MAJOR MINES WITHIN A DISTANCE OF THREE AND ONE-HALF MILES, MAKING THIS THE MOST IMPORTANT TUNGSTEN AREA ON THE RANGE. FROM NORTH TO SOUTH THESE MINES INCLUDE: THE (1) HILL TOP, (2) TUNGSTEN QUEEN, (3) EVERETT, (4) ORIOLE, (5) CHIEF AND (6) SILVER BELL. THEY ARE LOCATED IN A SERIES OF SHORT, DRY BOX-LIKE CANYONS AT AN ELEVATION OF APPROXIMATELY 7,000 FEET, AND ARE SERVED BY A NETWORK OF DIRT ROADS THAT FOCUS ON MINERVA. THIS DISTRICT CONTAINS EIGHT PATENTED CLAIMS AND 53 UNPATENTED CLAIMS, WHICH COVER 760 ACRES AND 2,900 ACRES, RESPECTIVELY.[263]

TUNGSTEN WAS INITIALLY DISCOVERED IN THE MINERVA MINING DISTRICT IN 1915. MINING COMMENCED THE FOLLOWING YEAR, AT WHICH TIME MINERVA WAS FOUNDED. INITIALLY IT WAS A SMALL TENT COMMUNITY, BUT AS PRODUCTION INCREASED PERMANENT BUILDINGS WERE ERECTED. A 150-TON CONCENTRATOR WAS INSTALLED BY THE MINERVA TUNGSTEN CORPORATION, WHICH PROCESSED 200 TONS OF ORE DAILY.[264] THE LABOR FORCE CONSISTED OF APPROXIMATELY 200 MEN WHO CAME FROM ELY AND OTHER PARTS OF EASTERN NEVADA. THIS LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STAR MAIL ROUTE AND THE OPENING OF THE SHOSHONE POST OFFICE AT THE SWALLOW RANCH, ONE AND ONE-HALF MILES NORTH OF MINERVA. IN THE FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION THE MINES PRODUCED 31,358 TONS OF ORE, THE LARGEST TONNAGE OF THAT DECADE.[265] TABLE XII SHOWS THAT PRODUCTION RECORD FOR 1916 AND THE FIVE YEAR PERIOD BETWEEN 1937 AND 1940. HOWEVER, WITH THE END OF THE WAR THE DEMAND FOR LARGE AMOUNTS OF TUNGSTEN CEASED. A FIRE LATER DESTROYED THE MILL AND THE MINING OPERATION WAS LARGELY ABANDONED.

IN THE NEXT TWO DECADES ONLY INTERMITTENT MINING OCCURRED. THEN, WITH THE ONSET OF WORLD WAR II in 1939, A NEW BOOM WAS USHERED IN AND MINERVA WAS REBORNE AGAIN. A NEW CONCENTRATING MILL WAS BUILT (PLATE 257), SMALL FRAME HOUSES WERE CONSTRUCTED FOR THE WORKERS (PLATE 268), AND A MODERN MINING CAMP WAS ESTABLISHED, WITH OVER $500,000 INVESTED IN THE OPERATION. ORE FROM THIS DISTRICT, AS WELL AS FROM NEIGHBORING AREAS, WAS CONCENTRATED HERE WHERE A ROD MILL AND TWO WIFFLEY TABLES WERE IN OPERATION. HOWEVER, WITH THE END OF THE WAR IN 1945, PRODUCTION GRADUALLY DECLINED. THE ONLY EXCEPTION WAS THE TUNGSTEN QUEEN, WHICH OPERATED DURING THE KOREAN WAR IN THE EARLY 1950'S.[266] HOWEVER, IN SPITE

OF THE RATHER SPORADIC OPERATIONS, THE MINERVA MINING DISTRICT HAS HAD AN IMPRESSIVE HISTORY OF PRODUCTION, WITH NUMBEROUS BLOCKED OUT ORE BODIES STILL PRESENT. OF THESE MINES THE TUNGSTEN QUEEN AND SILVER BELL HAVE BEEN THE STEADIEST PRODUCERS, ALONG WITH A RELATIVELY LARGE TONNAGE OF ORE REMOVED FROM THE CHIEF MINE (PLATES 259 AND 260). THESE MINES WILL CONTINUE TO REMAIN INACTIVE UNTIL ANOTHER MAJOR NEED FOR THE USE OF THIS METAL.

EAST SLOPE MINES.

ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE RANGE TUNGSTEN HAS BEEN MINED IN THE SNAKE MINING DISTRICT SINCE 1913, AND THE LEXINGTON MINING DISTRICT SINCE 1917 (FIGURE 36).[267] ALTHOUGH PRODUCTION HERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY MORE MODEST THAN ON THE WESTERN FLANK, SUFFICIENT ORE WAS EXTRACTED TO SUSTAIN TWO SMALL CONCENTRATING MILLS DURING WORLD WAR I, SITUATED IN SNAKE CANYON AND THE SOUTH FORK OF BIG WASH, RESPECTIVELY. IN SNAKE CREEK CANYON THE PRINCIPLE MINE IS LOCATED ABOVE JOHNSON LAKE (10,800 FEET), A FEW HUNDRED FEET BELOW THE CREST OF THE RANGE. TUNGSTEN ORE FROM THIS AREA WAS OF EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH QUALITY, BUT ITS REMOVAL WAS HAMPERED BY THE RUGGEDNESS OF THE TERRAIN AND THE SHORT WORKING SEASON. IN ORDER TO TRANSPORT THE ORE FROM THE MINE AN OVERHEAD CABLE WAS INSTALLED, ALONG WHICH THE ORE WAS MOVED IN LARGE DRUMS TO THE SHORE OF JOHNSON LAKE (PLATE 261). FROM HERE IT WAS TRANSPORTED DOWN CANYON BY MULE TO A SMALL TWO-TON CONCENTRATING MILL ON SNAKE CREEK, AT THE 7,200 FOOT LEVEL, AFTER WHICH THE CONCENTRATES WERE SHIPPED TO FRISCO, UTAH FOR EXPORT BY RAIL.[268] IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS MILL A SECOND PROPERTY WAS ALSO DEVELOPED IN THE SAME CANYON, BUT THE GRADE OF ORE WAS TOO LOW TO BE OF COMMERCIAL VALUE, AS WAS THE ORE IN UPPER BAKER CREEK CANYON. THE MAN WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING THE TUNGSTEN OPERATION AT THE HEAD OF SNAKE CREEK CANYON WAS ALFRED JOHNSON, A PIONEER MINER IN THE AREA WHO BUILT A LARGE LOG CABIN NEAR THE EASTERN SHORE OF JOHNSON LAKE IN THE EARLY 1900'S (PLATE 262).

IN THE LEXINGTON MINING DISTRICT TUNGSTEN HAS BEEN MINED IN UPPER LEXINGTON CREEK CANYON, THE SOUTH FORK OF BIG WASH, LOWER ARCH CANYON, AND IN THE NORTH FORK OF BIG WASH AT THE BIG WASH MINE. ORE

FROM THESE PROPERTIES WAS CONCENTRATED AT A SMALL MILL IN THE SOUTH FORK OF BIG WASH, BUILT IN 1917 NEAR THE LARGE SPRING THAT SUSTAINS SOUTH FORK CREEK.[269] THE MOST RECENT ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA WAS AT THE BIG WASH MINE IN 1953, WHICH WAS STIMULATED BY AN INCREASE IN TUNGSTEN PRICES DURING THE KOREAN WAR.

STAMP MILLS

WITH THE ADVENT OF WORLD WAR I (1914- 1918), SIX TUNGSTEN STAMP MILLS WERE ESTABLISHED ON THE SOUTHERN SNAKE RANGE. FOUR WERE LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE WITHIN A TWENTY MILE AREA: AT (1) WILLOW PATCH SPRING, (2) WILLARD CREEK, (3) WILLIAMS CREEK AND (4) MINERVA; AND TWO WERE LOCATED ON THE EASTERN SIDE IN (5) SNAKE CREEK CANYON AND THE (6) SOUTH FORK OF BIG WASH. THEY WERE ESTABLISHED TO CONCENTRATE THE ORE BEFORE IT WAS SHIPPED TO THE SMELTER IN SALT LAKE CITY, WHERE IT WAS FURTHER REFINED. AFTER THE TUNGSTEN WAS MINED IT WAS TRANSPORTED TO THE MILLS BY MULE, CONCENTRATED, AND THEN SHIPPED BY WAGON TO THE RAILHEAD AT EITHER ELY OR FRISCO, WHERE IT WAS MOVED BY RAIL TO THE SMELTER. IN THE MILLING PROCESS THE ORE WAS CRUSHED AND GROUND INTO FRAGMENTS AT THE STAMP MILLS, WHERE THE GANGUE WAS REMOVED. SINCE WATER WAS FUNDAMENTAL TO THIS OPERATION, THE CONCENTRATING MILLS WERE LOCATED NEAR A RELIABLE WATER SUPPLY. AFTER BEING REFINED, THE METAL WAS USED AS AN ALLOY IN STEEL FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF SHELLS AND VARIOUS WEAPONS AND ARMAMENTS OF WAR. THIS OPERATION FUNCTIONED UNTIL THE END OF HOSTILITIES WHEN THE DEMAND FOR TUNGSTEN CEASED. REMAINS OF THIS EARLY INDUSTRY ARE STILL PRESENT: SUCH AS THE MILL IN THE UPPER SNAKE CREEK CANYON (PLATE 263), WHICH PROCESSED ORE MINED AT JOHNSON LAKE; AND THE FOUR-STAMP MILL IN THE SOUTH FORK OF BIG WASH, ERECTED TO CRUSH ORE FROM LEXINGTON CREEK CANYON.

DURING WORLD WAR II (1939 - 1945) THE TUNGSTEN INDUSTRY WAS REVIVED AGAIN WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW MILL AT MINERVA TO PROCESS THE HIGHLAND RIDGE ORES. AS IT HAS ALREADY BEEN POINTED OUT, THIS WAS ONE OF THE LARGEST OF ITS KIND IN NEVADA AND EMPLOYED A SIZABLE LABOR FORCE UNTIL THE CLOSE OF THE WAR. IN SPITE OF THE TEMPORARY NATURE OF THIS INDUSTRY, HOWEVER, IT PROVIDED AN IMPORTANT STIMULUS TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND PROVIDED THE NATION WITH A MUCH NEEDED METAL FOR THE ARMAMENTS OF WAR.

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MT. WASHINGTON MINING DISTRICT (BERYLLIUM) (1868)

THE MT. WASHINGTON MINING DISTRICT, FORMERLY THE LINCOLN AND ST. LAWRENCE MINING DISTRICTS, ENCOMPASSES THE WESTERN FLANK OF THE RANGE BETWEEN MT. WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN PEAK (FIGURE 36). ORE WAS ORIGINALLY DISCOVERED HERE ON JULY 10, 1868, AND TWO DAYS LATER THE DISTRICT WAS ORGANIZED. [270] METALS PRESENT INCLUDE SIGNIFICANT QUANITIES OF LEAD, SILVER, TUNGSTEN AND BERYLLIUM, WITH LESSER AMOUNTS OF COPPER AND ANIMONY. THERE ARE ALSO NEARBY DEPOSITS OF BLACK AND WHITE SPAR. ALTHOUGH PROSPECT PITS, SHAFTS AND ADITS ARE WIDELY SCATTERED IN POLE CANYON AND UPPER LINCOLN CANYON, THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT PRODUCER HAS BEEN THE ST. LAWRENCE MINE NEAR THE CREST OF THE RANGE.

ST. LAWRENCE MINE (1890)

THE ST. LAWRENCE MINE IS SITUATED AT THE HEAD OF LINCOLN CANYON, WHERE LEAD AND SILVER WERE INITIALLY DISCOVERED BY WILLIAM BACON IN 1890, A LOCAL OLD-TIME PROSPECTOR.[271] LATER THE ST. LAWRENCE MINING COMPANY WAS ORGANIZED AND SEVEN PATENTED MINING CLAIMS WERE SECURED ON THE ST. LAWRENCE FISSURE, ONE OF MANY NORTH-SOUTH TRENDING ORE ZONES IN THE AREA. THIS FISSURE WAS OPENED AT VARIOUS POINTS ALONG SOME 10,000 FEET OF ITS TOTAL STRIKE, AT ELEVATIONS RANGING BETWEEN 9,600 AND 11,200 FEET (PLATE 264). THE MINE WAS OPERATED UNTIL 1910, AND THEN AGAIN DURING WORLD WAR I, AT WHICH TIME IT NETTED A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF HIGH GRADE ORE WHICH AVERAGED ABOUT 75 PERCENT LEAD AND 60 OUNCES OF SILVER PER TON. [272]

BECAUSE OF THE HIGH ALTITUDE, STURDY CABINS WERE CONSTRUCTED OF BRISTLECONE PINE TO HOUSE THE MINERS (PLATE 264). THE SHORT WORKING SEASON AND THE LOGISTICS OF MOVING THE ORE DOWNSLOPE MADE THE OPERATION EXPENSIVE AND OFTEN UNECONOMICAL. SINCE ROAD ACCESS WAS IMPOSSIBLE AT THAT TIME, THE ORE WAS SACKED AND EXPORTED BY MULE, THE ONLY ANIMAL CAPABLE OF NEGOTIATING THE STEEP TERRAIN. DURING WORLD WAR I IT WAS EVEN TOBOGGANED OFF THE MOUNTAIN ON ROCK SLEDS THAT FOLLOWED A NEARBY HOGBACK RIDGE.[273] BECAUSE OF THESE INCONVENIENCES THE PRODUCTION RECORD OF THE ST. LAERENCE MINE HAS NOT BEEN AS IMPRESSIVE AS OTHER MINES ON THE RANGE.

FROM 1910 TO 1948, DESULTORY LEASING OPERATIONS WERE CONDUCTED BY VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS, BUT WITH ONLY SMALL PRODUCTION. THEN IN THE SUMMER OF 1948, JAMES G. HULSE AND VICTOR COTTINO OF PIOCHE, AND SHIRLEY ROBISON OF ELY PERFORMED THE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TASK OF BUILDING THE MT. WASHINGTON JEEP ROAD, A SPECTACULAR SPIRALING TRACK THAT CLIMBS THE ABRUPT WEST FLANK OF MT. WASHINGTON TO THE ST. LAWRENCE CLAIMS.[274] AS A RESULT OF THE NEW ROUTE, FOUR RAILROAD CARLOADS OF LEAD-SILVER ORE WERE MINED AND EXPORTED DURING THE FALL OF THAT YEAR AND THE SPRING OF 1949, WHICH AVERAGED ABOUT 30 PERCENT LEAD AND 18 OUNCES OF SILVER PER TON.[275] THIS WAS DURING THE PERIOD WHEN LEAD WAS SELLING FOR 21.5 CENTS A POUND, BUT WHEN THE PRICE DECLINED THE OPERATION BECAME UNECONOMICAL. AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE IS NO LOCAL MINING ACTIVITY AND THE WORKINGS HAVE BEEN LARGELY IDLE SINCE THE MIDDLE OF THE PRESENT CENTURY.

MT. WASHINGTON BERYLLIUM DEPOSIT (1958)

IN JULY OF 1950, JAMES D. WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT OF MT. WHEELER MINES, INCORPORATED, ACQUIRED THE SEVEN PATENTED CLAIMS OF THE ST. LAWRENCE MINE PLUS AN ADDITIONAL 104 UNPATENTED CLAIMS IN THE SURROUNDING AREA.[276] SHORTLY THEREAFTER HE INTERESTED THE COMBINED METALS REDUCTION COMPANY AND THE AMERICAN ZINC, LEAD AND SMELTING COMPANY IN PROVIDING FUNDS TO EXPLORE AND MAP THIS PROPERTY, WITH THE INTENT OF INTERSECTING THE HIGH GRADE ST. LAWRENCE FISSURE BY MEANS OF A LONG LOW ELEVATION TUNNEL. THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY DRILLING AN ADIT IN POLE CANYON AT THE 7,800 FOOT LEVEL (PLATES 266 AND 267), IN THE LIMY BEDS IN THE LOWER THIRD OF THE PIOCHE SHALE.[277] IN THE COURSE OF THIS WORK, NEARLY ONE AND ONE-HALF MILES OF TUNNELS WERE EXCAVATED BETWEEN 1955 AND 1957 (PLATE 268), BUT THE RICH LEAD-SILVER FISSURE WAS NOT ENCOUNTERED. HOWEVER, A HERETOFORE UNKNOWN SHEELITE DEPOSIT WAS DISCOVERED THAT WAS ESTIMATED TO BE WORTH $1,000,000. AS A RESULT, A SECOND ADIT WAS DRILLED IN LINCOLN CANYON (PLATE 269), ONE AND ONE-HALF MILES TO THE SOUTH, TO FURTHER EXPLORE THE ORE BODY. TWO HUNDRED MEN WERE EMPLOYED AT THE TWO SITES, AND APPROXIMATELY 200 TONS OF TUNGSTEN WERE PRODUCED DAILY.[278] THE PROSPECTS FOR A NEW MINING BONANZA LOOKED SO BRIGHT THAT A $25,000 CONCENTRATING MILL WAS STARTED ON WILLARD CREEK TO PROCESS THE ORE. IN TOTAL APPROXIMATELY $1,500,000 WAS INVESTED

DURING THIS PERIOD, with 4,000 TONS OF ORE AVERAGING 1.10 PERCENT WO_3, BEING SHIPPED.[279] HOWEVER, IN THE MIDST OF THIS PROGRESS, THE DOMESTIC TUNGSTEN PURCHASE PROGRAM BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS TERMINATED AND THE REMAINING ORE WAS NOT MINED. BECAUSE OF THE HIGH COST OF MILLING, THE BUILDINGS, MACHINERY AND OTHER FACILITIES WERE REMOVED, AND THE PROPERTY WAS ABANDONED.

IN 1958 A NEW DISCOVERY WAS MADE. IN THAT YEAR A SPECTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF THE TUNGSTEN ORE SAMPLES REVEALED THE PRESENCE OF A BERYLLIUM-BEARING MINERAL KNOWN AS PHENACITE. THIS WAS A NEW MINERAL, FOUR TIMES RICHER THAN BERYL, AND UNIQUE IN THAT IT WAS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH PEGMATITIC DEPOSITION WHICH IS THE USUAL SITUATION.[280] AS FAR AS IT WAS KNOWN, THIS WAS THE ONLY DEPOSIT OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD. A NEW INVESTIGATION WAS IMMEDIATELY INAUGURATED AND IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT THE RESERVES CONTAINED MORE THAN 0.75 PERCENT BERYLLIUM OXIDE (BeO). THIS TOUCHED OFF A GREAT DEAL OF EXCITEMENT, AND IN FEBRUARY 1959 THE DISCOVERY WAS ANNOUNCED. IN SEPTEMBER OF THAT SAME YEAR, THE MT. WASHINGTON CLAIMS WERE SOLD TO BERYLLIUM RESOURCES INCORPORATED FOR A SUM OF $1,900,000, A NEWLY ORGANIZED COMPANY THAT WAS INVOLVED IN AN EXTENSIVE BERYLLIUM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN SEVERAL WESTERN STATES.[281] THE SALE INVOLVED 111 MINING CLAIMS; AND AT THE TIME OF PURCHASE, IT WAS FORECAST THAT A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR PROJECT WOULD LIKELY DEVELOP.

PRELIMINARY WORK IN POLE CANYON CONSISTED OF A RESERVE DETERMINATION AND MINERAL ASSAMBLAGE STUDY, FOLLOWED BY A PILOT TESTING OF THE NEWLY DEVELOPED REAGENT ON THE ORES. IT WAS HOPED THAT BERYLLIUM FROM THIS DISTRICT COULD BE USED AS EITHER AN ALLOY WITH OTHER METALS OR FOR MAKING PURE BERYLLIUM METAL. HOWEVER, AT THE COMPLETION OF THE STUDY THE ANTICIPATED DEVELOPMENT DID NOT MATERIALIZE. AS IT TURNED OUT, THE DEPOSIT IN THE UNITED STATES WITH THE LARGEST PROVEN RESERVES, AND WHICH SHOWED THE GREATEST ADAPTABILITY TO THE NEW FLOTATION PROCESS, WAS NOT THE SNAKE RANGE ORE BODY, BUT ONE LOCATED AT SPORE MOUNTAIN, UTAH, 70 MILES NORTHWEST OF DELTA. THIS DEPOSIT HAS SINCE BEEN DEVELOPED INTO A BIG OPEN PIT OPERATION THAT IS CURRENTLY THE LARGEST BERYLLIUM DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY. IT IS LIKELY THAT PRODUCTION FROM THE SNAKE RANGE WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL EITHER THE NATION'S RICHER AND MORE ACCESSIBLE DEPOSITS ARE EXHAUSTED, OR UNTIL A NATIONAL EMERGENCY WARRANTS ITS EXPLOITATION.

HOWEVER, THE USE OF BERYLLIUM IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY WIDESPREAD SINCE IT IS LIGHTER THAN ALUMINUM AND STRONGER THAN STEEL, AND HAS FAR REACHING ADVANTAGES FOR USE IN MISSILES, ROCKETS, AND OTHER PHASES OF THE SPACE INDUSTRY. AT THE PRESENT TIME THE ONLY ACTIVE MINING OPERATION ON THE SOUTHERN SNAKE RANGE IS THE BOUNDY LEAD-ZINC MINE IN UPPER LEXINGTON CREEK CANYON (PLATE 270). A SMALL MILL HAS BEEN ERECTED NEAR THE MINE TO CONCENTRATE THE ORE BEFORE IT IS EXPORTED (PLATE 271).

NON-METALLIC MINERALS

IN ADDITION TO THE METALLIC MINERALS, GRAVEL IS MINED IN SPRING VALLEY FROM PLEISTOCENE SHORE LINE DEPOSITS OF ANCIENT SHOSHONE LAKE. THE BEST DEPOSITS ARE IN TWO PARALLEL BEACH BARS, THE NORTH HIGHLINE AND SOUTH HIGHLINE BARS. THESE BARS ARE TEN MILES APART AND CROSS THE VALLEY IN AN EASTWEST DIRECTION BETWEEN PYRAMID PEAK AND THE SOUTHERN TERMINUS OF HIGHLAND RIDGE. ALONG THE NORTH HIGHLINE BAR THE GRAVEL PITS ARE LARGER AND MORE NUMEROUS, WHERE THE MATERIAL IS EXCAVATED AND USED LOCALLY FOR BUILDING ROADS (PLATE 272). AT THE PRESENT TIME THIS IS THE ONLY ACTIVE MINING OPERATION IN THE BASINS. SINCE 1950 SEVERAL TEST WELLS HAVE BEEN DRILLED IN SNAKE VALLEY IN SEARCH OF PETROLEUM, BUT NO COMMERCIAL POOLS HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED.

CONCRETE PIPE FACTORY

ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES IN THIS AREA WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONCRETE PIPE FACTORY ON THE NORTH HIGHLINE BAR IN THE MIDDLE 1940'S (PLATE 273). HERE SAND AND GRAVEL WERE EXTRACTED FROM THE RELICT SHORELINE DEPOSITS NEAR THE NORTH HIGHLINE ROAD AND MADE INTO CONCRETE. THIS INDUSTRY WAS ESTABLISHED BY THREE PARTNERS; MELBOURNE ROBISON OF SPRING VALLEY; AND J.D. HILL AND HUGO MAYO OF ELY; AND OPERATED FOR TEN YEARS AFTER WORLD WAR II.[282] THE PLANT MADE CONCRETE USED IN CULVERTS, AND 12-INCH AND 24-INCH BUILDING BLOCKS USED IN CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS THROUGHOUT WHITE PINE COUNTY AND EASTERN NEVADA. HOWEVER, THE OPERATION EVENTUALLY BECAME UNPROFITABLE, EITHER THROUGH RISING PRODUCTION COSTS OR THROUGH A DECREASING DEMAND FOR THE PRODUCTS, AND IT CLOSED DOWN IN THE MIDDLE 1950'S.

STARTING IN 1877 AND SINCE, YOU CAN SEE THAT SIGNIFICANT DISCOVERIES WERE MADE ON THE SNAKE RANGE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK THROUGH 1958. SINCE THAT DATE, MORE EXCITING DISCOVERIES HAVE BEEN MADE WITH THE AID OF NEW SCIENTIFIC METHODS, NEW EQUIPMENT AND NEW PROCESSES.

TO NOT ALLOW ANY MORE EXPLORATION FOR MINERALS WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK WOULD DEPRIVE WHITE PINE COUNTY AND THE STATE OF NEVADA OF MILLIONS, PERHAPS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS THAT WILL EVENTUALLY BE PUMPED INTO THE ECONOMY IN THE FORM OF NEW WEALTH. THIS WOULD AMOUNT TO A NATIONAL TRAGEDY.

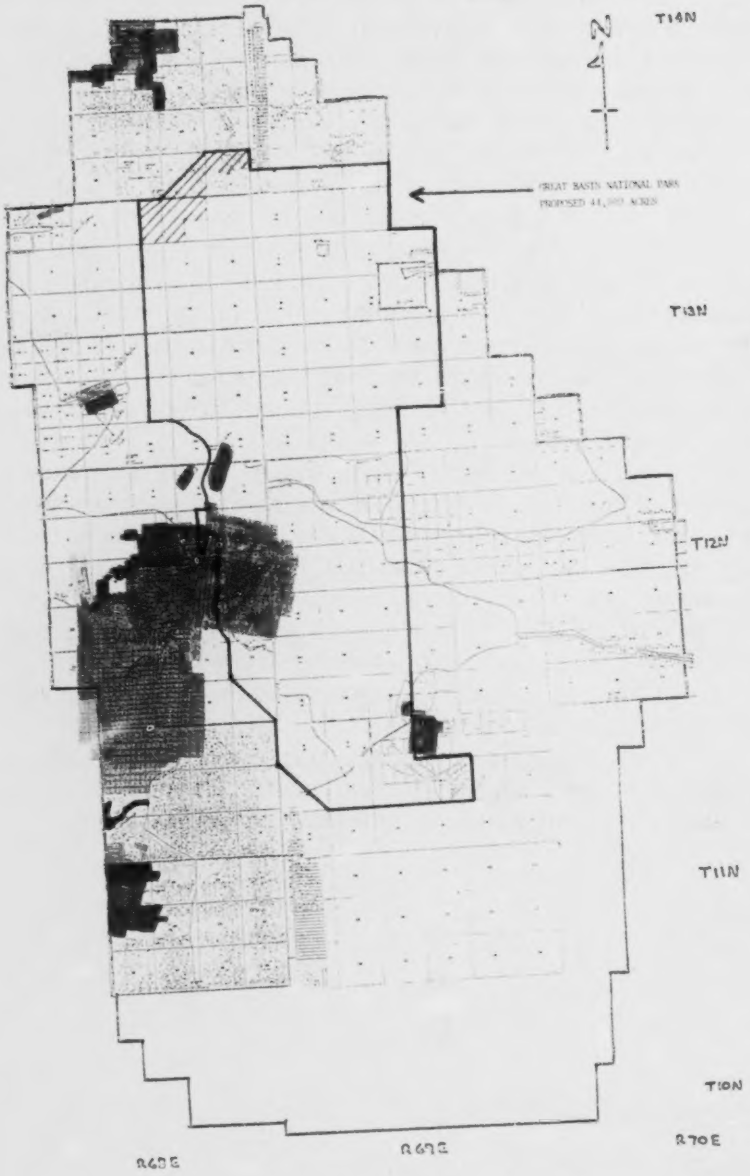
ROBERT STARR WAITE, IN HIS THESIS HAS MINIMIZED THE FUTURE OF MINING. ADDITIONALLY, NO MENTION WAS EVEN MADE TO OIL AND GAS. THIS COMPOUNDS THE TRAGEDY. IN THE FUTURE WE WILL NEED ALL THE MINERALS INCLUDING THE ORE AND GAS. OUR NATION, IN THE FUTURE, MAY NEED AND DEPEND ON BERYLLIUM TO SURVIVE A WAR. NOW, I ASK YOU . . . SHOULD WE SACRIFICE ALL OF THESE BASIC RESOURCES FOR A PIE IN THE SKY? WILL WE REMEMBER THE DAY THE PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK LEGISLATION PASSES AS THE DAY OUR RESOURCES ARE FORGOTTEN FOREVER, AT LEAST AS LONG AS WE ARE A NATION? GOD FORBID. PLEASE STOP THIS RAPE AND RUIN OF OUR NEEDED RESOURCES.

IN ADDITION TO LOSING THE FUTURE NEW WEALTH FROM MANY RESOURCES ON THIS MOUNTAIN WE WILL START A WILD FIRE OF SPEND-SPEND-SPEND. BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THIS MOUNTAIN AND THE COST OF BUILDING ROADS, TRAILS, ETC., THIS PARK COULD EVENTUALLY COST THE TAX PAYERS OF THIS NATION BILLIONS AND BILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

NOW IS THE TIME TO STOP THIS NEEDLESS EXPENDITURE, THAT IS, BEFORE IT GETS STARTED. WE PLEAD WITH YOU AGAIN TO RECOGNIZE THIS NATION HAS A LIMIT WHAT WE SHOULD BE SPENDING ON MEDIOCRITY, PLEASE REFER TO EXHIBIT "F" HODEL'S BOMBSHELL.

IF THIS GREAT BASIN PARK BILL IS KILLED, ALL OF THE PEOPLE IN WHITE PINE COUNTY AND SURROUNDING COUNTIES WILL START A 5 DAY CELEBRATION AND THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE IN THE REST OF THE STATE.

THANK YOU.


N
T14N
GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK
PROPOSED 44,000 ACRES
T13N
T12N
T11N
T10N
R68E
R69E
R70E

SNAKE DIVISION

MINING CLAIM LOCATIONS

EXHIBIT "B"

SCALE: .68 INCHES = 1 MILE

NOVEMBER 13-1985
BY S. H. W.

SILVER BELL MINE	■	CRAWFORD COOK	▨
CHIEF MINE	■	OSCEOLA GOLD MINERS	■
ORIOLE MINE	■	BLUE ENERGY RESOURCES, INC.	▨
EVERETT MINES	■	SWALLOW	□
TUNGSTEN QUEEN MINE	□	REED ROBISON	■
HILLTOP	■	MT. WHEELER MINES	▨
SUNA CORPORATION	■	PONDEROSA	■
SAUOS	■	JEPPSON & ASSOCIATES	■
TAYLOR	▨	STOPPER	□

AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF THE GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL

By FREE ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATES, INC.

SUMMARY AND UPDATE

In January 1986, Free Enterprise Associates, Inc. (FEA) produced an economic analysis of The Great Basin National Park Proposal as delineated in H.R. 3302. Since that time the boundaries of the proposed park have been changed significantly in subsequent bills in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. FEA has not had the resources to revise its economic analysis each time the boundaries have been changed; some sections of the report are, therefore, obsolete as of this date. Other sections of the report remain valid.

Despite the numerous changes in the boundaries of the proposed park, FEA believes that general shape of the conclusions reached by its economic analysis remain relevant for essentially two reasons: (1) That in the event any national park is established in the South Snake Range, regardless of size, pressure to expand it will develop immediately from environmental groups and from within the National Park Service itself. (See enclosed "Ramifications of Future National Park Expansion"). (2) That, contrary to suggestive language in the current House and Senate bills, livestock grazing will not be allowed to continue under the administration of the National Park Service.

Proponents of the Great Basin National Park believe that by the year 2000, visitation to the area will reach 500,000 annually and be worth $20 million each year to residents of Nevada.[1] These figures appear to be an estimate; no studies have been made to sub-

EXHIBIT "C"

stantiate them. The economic value of mining, ranching and other multiple use activities which will be displaced by the park are apparently considered insigificant. FEA is not aware of any studies produced by proponents of the National Park which attach a specific economic value to those activities.

FEA estimates that by the year 2000 annual visitation to a Great Basin National Park could reach as high as 150,000, approximately three times the present number. The economic contribution of these people to the county would not exceed $12 million[2] annually. Their economic value to the state could be about $17.5 million[3] annually. Their value to the national economy is, of course, zero, because tourist dollars are derived from new wealth produced within the United States.

The annual value of timber, livestock and mineral products which would be displaced by the establishment of the proposed national park is, at the present time: to the county, approximately $1.9 million[4]; to the state, $2.5 million[5]; and to the nation, $14.2 million[6].

These figures are expected to increase if the national park is not established and multiple use management of the area continues, as follows: By 1992 to the county, approximately $15.5 million[4]; to the state, $36 million[5]; to the nation $207 million[6]. By the year 2000 to the county, approximately $19 million[4]; to the state, $33 million[5]; to the nation, $341 million[6].

FEA's economic analysis of the Great Basin National Park Proposal indicates that economic losses will be increased at all levels of the economy during the next decade and beyond if the multiple-use management of the subject area is abandoned in favor of single-use management under the National Park Service. New wealth production will be discontinued in favor of developing the tourist industry.

In the long run as well as for the short term, this decision, from an economic standpoint, would appear to be a foolish one.

FREE ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATES, INC.

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[1] Waite, Robert S., Proposed Great Basin National Park. The Story Behind the Scenery, University of Utah, 25 November 1985.

[2] (Factor = 2.5) [3] (Factor = 3.5) [4] (Factor = 2.5) [5] (Factor = 3.5)

[6] (Factor = 20)

Photo by David Muench

Bristlecone pines are not peculiar to Nevada. This one is in California's Patriarch Grove

Formula For Mediocrity

By VIRLIS L. FISCHER

It's in Nevada and Nevada wants a national park. But is Wheeler Peak worthy, or in right place?

EXHIBIT "D"

ONE well-traveled lady who has visited nearly every national park in the United States and Canada, upon seeing Wheeler Peak, Nevada, said, "Is this what they're trying to make a national park out of?" Continuing, she said, "Why, if I lived back East and spent my money to come out here on my vacation on the strength that this was a great national park, I'd be so mad I'd demand my money back." Fact of the matter is Wheeler Peak isn't that bad. It's just that it's ordinary.

To this lady a national park should be a great outdoor museum, something spectacular, or unique, or of such scenic magnificence as to be outstanding, or at least the best example of its kind. This is sometimes known as the "Crown Jewel Concept." Shucks, this lady is just an old-fashioned girl. Today, in the drive for new parks, a "typical" or "representative" example of a particular kind of country will do, and, besides, we have to deal within the realm of the possible. And in Nevada anything is possible. This ingenious State created a state park out of some weird sandstone outcroppings on the desert by hauling in the drinking water in tank trucks and storing it in standpipes. And a real fine park it is, too.

And so Wheeler Peak and its environs in the Snake range of Nevada, near the town of Ely, likely will soon become the "nation's newest national park" upon enactment of a bill now pending in Congress. Remaining point to be cleared up is merely one of size—the large park wanted by Interior or a smaller park of 53,000 acres more acceptable to some of the local interests. This has been a factor in keeping the proposal kicking around for a decade now.

The park won't be called Wheeler Peak, and, of course, the name "Snake" has connotations. So it is proposed to call it the "Great Basin National Park." A poor choice for a name, but, after all, it is situated in the Great Basin which consists of Western Utah, nearly all of Nevada, eastern California, and a small piece of Oregon. Here the rivers never reach the sea, but, instead, dead-end in such places as Great Salt Lake, Walker Lake, Pyramid Lake, or Carson and Humboldt Sinks.

Within this area are range upon range of north-south trending fault block mountains with long, narrow valleys in between. It is known as "basin and range" topography. The Snake range is typical. Thus the proposed park would contain a representative mountain range, but, alas, none of the basin. Since the lowest elevation in the park is about 6000 feet it will lie well above basin level, most of which varies from 3900 to 4200 feet.

Forest Service Doing Good Job

It doesn't matter that the Forest Service, from whose Humboldt National Forest the park would be carved, has protected the area for 50 years and is doing a good job in preserving the scenery and in meeting the increasing need for public recreation developments. Nor does it matter much that such groups as the Nevada Wildlife Federation, state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation, oppose the park and favor continued multiple use management of the resources under the Forest Service, thus leaving the way open for future development of a fabulous winter sports complex, among other potentials.

In Nevada tourism is the number one industry, with over 21 million

Wheeler Peak area in Humboldt National Forest is an attractive enough area and has been well-managed by Forest Service for 50 years. But if selectivity is to be a guide, AFA doubts its qualifications for a new national park. Author concurs

visitors annually. Originally it was mining, then cattle and sheep. Today it's tourists. Anyone who comes up with an idea to bring in more tourists is the man of the hour. This park was conceived as a shot in the arm to the local economy, principally the community of Ely. And what's good for one area is good for the state.

Thus, the proposed Great Basin National Park has the official blessing of the state government, and the support of its Congressional delegation. Even taxpayer's money has been expended in support of the park campaign. Although the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, which Nevada shares with Arizona, attracts more than 3,000,000 recreational visits annually, the proposed national park could hardly hope to outdraw nearby Bryce and Zion National Parks (less than half a million), which are well-established and well-known. But a Nevada official has said, "Even if it draws only a third as well as Lassen Volcanic National Park in California (about 150,000), it will be worthwhile." Add the blessing of the Department of the Interior and the endorsement of President Johnson, and it is difficult to see how the park proponents can fail. At the same time, however, some sort of record for exaggerated claims of national park stature for an area will have been set.

One of the misleading claims as advanced by park proponents, is the statement that the area contains "a rare living glacier, unique to the Great Basin." It is true that a small patch of permanent ice does exist, which the Forest Service trail sign labels honestly. It reads, "To the Icefield." It is a remnant of an ice-age glacier which carved the landscape during the Pleistocene period, but no longer meets the definition of a living glacier. A living glacier is a moving river of ice, and this small patch has neither the size, volume, nor weight to cause movement down the mountain. No self-respecting mountaineer would buy it for a glacier.

'Claims" are Questioned

Nor is it unique to the Great Basin. That is, if you accept the dictionary definition of "unique" as being derived from the Latin word "unus", and meaning one or one of a kind. A much larger icefield exists elsewhere in the Great Basin on Mt. Timpanogas in the Wasatch range of Utah, though still not a glacier. "Unique" is probably the most overworked word in all the history of park promotion. Just claim something is unique, and most people won't take the trouble to doubt it.

Another exaggerated claim is the statement of proponents that a national park is necessary in order to preserve "one of the last remaining stands of bristlecone pines." For the record, this tree (Pinus aristata) is a timberline species common to most high mountain ranges between the Rockies and the Sierra-Nevada. It is found in six of the 11 western states—Colorado, Utah, Nevada, eastern California, northern Arizona and New Mexico. Being a high elevation species it is often gnarled, twisted, and inaccessible. Having little commercial value, it is nowhere threatened. Receiving customary Forest Service management and protection, there is no foreseeable threat to its continued existence anywhere within its range.

The Forest Service has already established a 28,000-acre area in the White Mountains of California as the "Ancient Bristlecone Pines Natural Area." The Bureau of Land Management also has set aside a natural area in Nevada for the preservation of a stand of bristlecone pines on the public domain. The largest stand of all occurs on Mt. Charleston, a few miles from Las Vegas. And yet park proponents would have us believe that the Great Basin National Park is necessary in order to preserve "one of the last remaining stands."

One of the principal reasons given for the park is the alleged need for "telling the story of the Great Basin." And, "Where is there a better place to tell the story?" This one is nearly as souped-up as the glacier and the bristlecone pines sagas. Fact of the matter is the Park Service is already featuring the basin and range story and doing a very fine job of it. True, Death Valley National Monument in California and Nevada is only contiguous to the Great Basin, but here without doubt is Nature's most sublime masterpiece of basin and range topography. In fact, it's nothing short of spectacular. How many lesser examples are needed to tell this story?

Nearly all visitors to Salt Lake City sooner or later become aware of the Great Basin story. You can't escape it. On the one hand is Great Salt Lake, the surviving remnant of the great inland sea known to geologists as ancient Lake Bonneville. On the other hand, someone is sure to point out the old shorelines along the Wasatch Front which form the benches on which modern cities like Ogden, Logan, Provo, and Salt Lake City are built. This writer heard the story back in 1921 on his first visit to the Great Basin. The ancient lake was a thousand feet deep at one time.

Salt Lake Monument Urged

Here the story of the Great Basin becomes both fascinating and realistic. You can see it, almost feel it. Here is the perfect place to tell the story of the Great Basin. And also pending in Congress is a bill to accomplish just that—one creating the "Great Salt Lake National Monument." Yet the site in Nevada, whose lowest elevation is well above the wave-lapped terraces of ancient Lake Bonneville, is needed as a national park in order to tell the story of the Great Basin—according to park advocates.

One other justification advanced for this park is the presence of five life zones in the altitudinal range of the area. This has become a standard cliche in park campaigns wherever applicable (and it usually is), calculated to convince the most skeptical. This, of course, is a feature automatically present in every high mountain range in the Southwest rising from the desert floor to above timberline. Such conditions are commonplace wherever the altitude spread is sufficient. Some of the peaks, such as Mt. San Jacinto, have six life zones.

Thus, the pattern runs like this: First, the local group comes up with an idea for a tourist promotion gimmick. They have only an ordinary attraction to start with, so it is embellished with "a rare living glacier", a forest that is crying to be "saved", a story that needs to be told, and a plural number of life zones makes icing on the cake. Next, an association is formed to broaden the base of support. Then comes a knock on the door of the National Park Service, and this government bureau, hungering for expansion, makes a study and seldom can afford to turn one down. Finally, the wheels of the long legislative process begin to spin, and Congress will have to make a choice between the present efficient and economical multiple use management of the Forest Service, or a plausible-sounding national park which basically is a tourist promotion scheme seeking to cash in on a name.

Like it did to the lady in the beginning of our story, this raises some sober thoughts as to how far the standards for national parks should be lowered, and whether examples of the typical, the ordinary, and the commonplace should be included among the jewels of our national park diadem. Perhaps there is a need for a "Society for the Prevention of Mediocrity." ■

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Washington, D.C. 20006

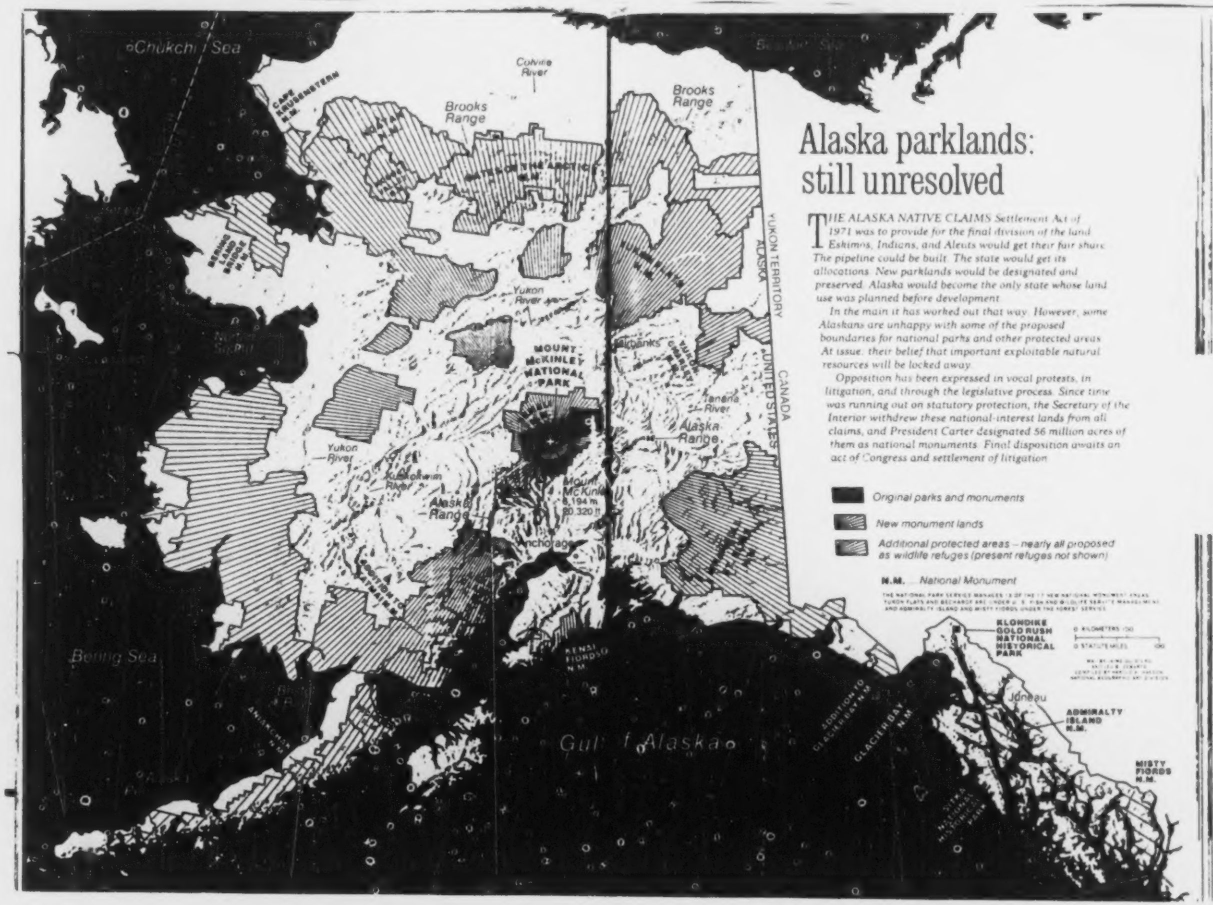
EXHIBIT "E"

Alaska parklands: still unresolved

THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS Settlement Act of 1971 was to provide for the final division of the land Eskimos, Indians, and Aleuts would get their fair share The pipeline could be built. The state would get its allocations. New parklands would be designated and preserved. Alaska would become the only state whose land use was planned before development

In the main it has worked out that way. However, some Alaskans are unhappy with some of the proposed boundaries for national parks and other protected areas At issue: their belief that important exploitable natural resources will be locked away

Opposition has been expressed in vocal protests, in litigation, and through the legislative process. Since time was running out on statutory protection, the Secretary of the Interior withdrew these national-interest lands from all claims, and President Carter designated 56 million acres of them as national monuments. Final disposition awaits an act of Congress and settlement of litigation


Chukchi Sea
Beaufort Sea
CAPE KRUSENSTERN N.M.
Brooks Range
Colville River
Brooks Range
BERING LAND BRIDGE N.M.
Yukon River
MOUNT McKINLEY NATIONAL PARK
Fairbanks
Tanana River
Alaska Range
Yukon River
Kuskokwim River
Alaska Range
Mount McKinley 6,194 m 20,320 ft
Anchorage
KENAI FIORDS N.M.
Gulf of Alaska
Bering Sea
ANIAKCHAK N.M.
YUKON TERRITORY
ALASKA
CANADA
UNITED STATES
ADDITION TO GLACIER BAY N.M.
GLACIER BAY N.M.
KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
Juneau
ADMIRALTY ISLAND N.M.
MISTY FIORDS N.M.
0 KILOMETERS 150
0 STATUTE MILES 100

- ■ Original parks and monuments
- ▨ New monument lands
- ▨ Additional protected areas – nearly all proposed as wildlife refuges (present refuges not shown)

N.M. ... National Monument

Ely DAILY TIMES

Friday, June 13, 1986 18 Pages

Hodel's bombshell: Forget the park

RENO, Nev. (AP)—Those Nevadans who are pinning their hopes for economic recovery in eastern Nevada on a proposed national park near Ely may be disappointed, Interior Secretary Donald Hodel said Thursday.

Hodel said he is opposed to the proposal creating the Great Basin National Park continued in a Democratic-sponsored bill that has passed the House. Hodel said his department can't afford another park on its current budget, adding that a more thorough analysis of the proposal's implications is needed.

In Reno to address the American Association of Petroleum Landmen, Hodel told reporters that he hopes Nevada's two Republican senators will be able to come up with a more acceptable proposal before Congress takes final action.

Many Nevadans have pushed for a national park as a way to attract thousands of tourists to the eastern part of the state. Eastern Nevada is an agricultural and mining area that has been economically depressed for years by falling mineral and commodity prices.

Hodel warned that national parks don't become tourist attractions without adequate facilities such as roads, campgrounds and restrooms.

"There is no guarantee there will be facilities at the park. Today I don't see any way we can provide the facilities," said Hodel, adding that a new park would simply become "a drain on the national park budget."

Hodel said staffing a national park in Nevada also would be a major problem. "The question is, how will we staff it? At this point, I don't know."

He said his department has better uses for its limited land acquisition funds, explaining that purchasing some 3 million acres of private land inside current parks has a higher priority than buying land for a new park.

A 129,000 -acre Great Basin National Park is contained in a bill sponsored by Rep. Harry Reid, D-Nev., which also designated 592,000 acres of public land in Nevada as wilderness.

The proposal has attracted strong opposition from some mining and ranching interests who fear the park designation would mean economic losses for their industries.

In an attempt to address that concern, Nevada's congressional Republicans have pushed a second measure creating a 40,000-acre park in the same area that would exclude the operations of a half-dozen ranchers and miners for park designation.

EXHIBIT "F"

Mr. SWALLOW. Mr. Chairman, there are two exhibits that inadvertently were not put in this. I will mail these.

Senator HECHT. Please do. Please do.

Mr. SWALLOW. Thank you.

Senator HECHT. They will be made a part of the record as if submitted in their entirety.

Mr. Robert Marcum, please.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT N. MARCUM, FREE ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATES, INC., BAKER, NV

Mr. MARCUM. Senator Hecht and subcommittee members:

I am Bob Marcum, retired, a resident of Ely, NV, and a member of Free Enterprise Associates. We are strongly opposed to the creation of the Great Basin National Park. Our organization has 267 members. The membership is composed of ranchers, farmers, miners, hunters, fishermen, campers, backpackers, and general citizens.

The establishment of the Great Basin National Park will seriously impact both wildlife and recreational opportunities in several current Nevada Department of Wildlife Management Programs. Even though the mule deer population on Mount Wheeler is depressed and has been for 10 years, the mountain still supports a quality deer hunt that averages 500 hunters, 2,200 hunter-use days, and 292 deer harvested in 1985.

In the early 1970's, this area supported up to 1,000 hunters, 3,500 hunter use days, and an annual harvest of nearly 500 deer. It is easy to understand why the deer hunt recreational resource on Mount Wheeler is not insignificant to the hunters of Nevada.

Nevada's large game wildlife management programs provide for harvest control through quota systems. The demand for large game hunting tags always exceeds the supply of tags. Mount Wheeler is part of unit 11, which includes Mount Moriah and the Shell Creek Range. This national park will reduce the deer tag quota for unit 11 approximately 200 to 500 tags per year. These deer tags cannot be replaced anywhere else in the State, since the quota is based on deer count in any particular unit. The deer hunting opportunity afforded by these tags will be gone forever.

The Nevada State Board of Wildlife Commissioners at its January 1986 meeting voted to support a rare II recommendation of 60,000 acres of wilderness for Mount Wheeler. At the House bill 3302 hearing in Ely in November 1985, the Nevada Department of Wildlife recommended that several alternatives to a National Park be considered by Congress.

Their recommendations were: allow hunting and fishing to continue under State control, or consider an alternative designation as a park preserve. Mount Wheeler's small streams and lakes support approximately 7,000 angler days per year. These angler days are heavily supported by department of wildlife trout-stocking programs.

The National Park Service does not normally plant trout. Without annual plantings, this fishery will quickly diminish. These use and harvest figures may seem low and possibly insignificant. It should be pointed out that our Nevada wildlife resources are generally low throughout the Great Basin.

Nevada has the most limited wildlife resources of any Western State. There simply are not any Nevada hunting and fishing resource areas that we can afford to lose due to Federal land reclassifications.

I thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Marcum follows:]

STATEMENT OF FREE ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATES TO THE PUBLIC LANDS, RESERVED WATER & CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Presented by Robert N. Marcum, member,
Free Enterprise Assoc., Inc., of Ely, Nevada.

July 18, 1986

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and sub-committee members. I'm Bob Marcum, retired, a resident of Ely, Nevada, and a member of Free Enterprise, Assoc., Inc. We are strongly opposed to the creation of the Great Basin National Park. Our organization has 267 members. Membership is composed of ranchers, farmers, miners, hunters, fishermen, campers, backpackers, etc., primarily in White Pine County. In addition we represent four (4) organized Sportsmen's club's in White Pine County who are unanimously opposed to the creation of the Great Basin National Park. These clubs are the "New White Pine Sportsmens Club", "The Bristlecone Bowmen", "The Eastern Nevada Fur Takers Assoc.", and the "Steptoe Renegades" (black powder). These four (4) clubs have a combined membership of approximately 150 members.

There are many excellent reasons why this multiple use, South Snake Division National Forest shouldn't be converted to a special use national park. My primary interest concerns the impacts this national park will impose on a very valuable Nevada hunting and fishing resource.

National Parks traditionally do not allow hunting and trapping. The establishment of this Great Basin National Park will seriously impact both wildlife recreational opportunities and several current Nevada

Dept. of Wildlife management programs. A review of these wildlife resources is in order.

The Wheeler Peak area presently supports a wide variety of wildlife including mule deer, elk, mountain lion, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, blue grouse, cottontail rabbit, several types of fur bearing animals, and a large variety of non-game species.

Even though the mule deer population on Mount Wheeler is depressed and has been for 10 years, the mountain still supports a quality deer hunt that averages 500 hunters, 2200 hunter-use days, and 292 deer harvested in 1985. In the early 1970's, this area supported up to 1000 hunters, 3500 hunter-use days, and an annual harvest of nearly 500 deer. Its easy to understand why the deer hunt recreational resource on Mt. Wheeler is not insignificant to the hunters of Nevada.

Nevada's large-game wildlife management programs provide for harvest control through quota systems. The demand for large-game hunting tags always exceeds the supply of tags. These annual hunter tag quotas are determined by population counts by species. To limit hunter congestion, the state is divided into many units and a hunter can ordinarily only hunt in one unit per year. Mt. Wheeler is a part of Unit 11 which includes Mt. Moriah and the Schell Creek range. The creation of this national park will reduce the deer tag quota for Unit 11 approximately 200 to 500 tags per year. These deer tags can't be replaced anywhere else in the state since quota is based on deer count in any particular unit. The deer hunting opportunity afforded by these tags will be gone forever.

Nevada is presently experiencing significant withdrawals of public lands by various government agencies. This national park, under traditional terms, would change from multiple-use to special use.

The Nevada State Board of Wildlife Commissioners at its January 1986 meeting voted to support the Rare II recommendation of 60,151 acres of wilderness for Mt. Wheeler. At the HB 3302 meeting in November, 1985, the Nevada Dept. of Wildlife recommended that several alternatives to a national park be considered by Congress. Their recommendations were: allow hunting and fishing to continue under state control; or consider an alternative designation as a park preserve.

Mt. Wheeler's small streams and lakes support approximately 7,000 angler days per year. These angler days are heavily supported by Dept. of Wildlife trout stocking programs. The National Park Service doesn't plant trout normally. Without annual plantings, this fishery will quickly diminish.

These use and harvest figures may seem low and possibly insignificant. It should be pointed out that our Nevada wildlife resources are generally low throughout the Great Basin. Nevada has the most limited wildlife resources of any western state. There simply aren't any Nevada hunting or fishing resource areas that we can afford to lose due to federal land reclassification.

White Pine County business interests have claimed for months that nearly all residents of the county support the park. We are conducting a signature poll of those who oppose a park. We have 2284

Page 4

signatures from White Pine County alone, which is 1/3 of total county residents. At least 90% of all county residents contacted during the poll are against the establishment of the Great Basin National Park.

Senator Hecht. And I thank you very much.

Mr. Joseph Griggs.

STATEMENT OF JOSEPH F. GRIGGS, JR., FREE ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATES, INC., BAKER, NV

Mr. Griggs. Mr. Chairman, I very much appreciate this opportunity to speak.

I am a 20-year resident of the area under discussion and a past employee of the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service in the South Snake Range for 9 years. My field of expertise is interpretation.

In my opinion, this park should not be created for several reasons, but I want to stress the importance of one of them: the credibility of information used by promoters of this park to describe the qualifications of the area for park status. This would be a substandard park—not slightly substandard; unacceptably substandard.

In 1974 Robert S. Waite published his doctoral dissertation at UCLA. It is titled "The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation of the Southern Snake Range, Nevada."

Since 1974, this document has become the bible of proponents of this park. Almost all of the promotional material I have seen in print in the last 10 years relies heavily on this document. Every legislator in this Congress whom I have heard speak on this subject in the last 7 months, except for you this morning, Senator Hecht, has relied almost exclusively on information originally published in this work. Most of what the Sierra Club publishes about the South Snake Range is tainted by this work. It is easily traceable as a source because of its many errors. In the 12 years it has been around, it has done a lot of damage.

This document is a park proposal and recommends the area for classification as a national park, yet its author claims that it is an objective, even scientific study. It is neither objective nor scientific. It is junk, j-u-n-k.

Dr. Waite fulfilled the format requirements for his Ph.D. and, having known him since 1966, I am sure that he did not intend to disseminate false information. He is well meaning and a person of integrity. But there was in 1974 and there is no one now in the academic world who could reasonably be expected to judge or correct the accuracy of his information about this little-known area.

Let me cite three examples of the kinds of problems created by Dr. Waite's thesis.

First, Dr. Waite describes what he calls the Wheeler Peak Glacier, or Glacieret. He says it is a remnant of the Pleistocene Glacier which carved the cirque in the canyon in which it is found. This is not true.

It is a subsequent snowdrift, essentially, which bears no relation to the Pleistocene Glacier. Waite further contends that this glacieret is a permanent feature on the mountain and therefore represents a "geographical anomaly." At the latitude where Wheeler Peak is situated, permanent ice would not normally be found below the 15,000-foot level. Wheeler Peak is about 13,000 feet high. Yet, Waite insists that permanent ice is found at 11,000 feet on Wheeler Peak along with tundra-like plants, a geographical anomaly.

I am not sure what Dr. Waite means by tundra-like plants. There is no tundra on Wheeler Peak. There is no permafrost there, no permanent ice. What he calls the glacieret has melted away entirely at least three times since 1930. It reappears during recurring cycles of heavy precipitation.

Second example: The section devoted to bristlecone pines in Waite's dissertation is 33 pages long. I found one substantive error for every five sentences in this section.

Third example: Dr. Waite predicts that 500,000 people each year will be visiting the park by the year 2000.

Senator **Hecht**. You will have to summarize.

Mr. **Griggs**. In conclusion, the suitability of the South Snake Range for national park status has been widely represented. Reliable information on this subject is rare. The public does not want any oversold substandard parks. The National Park Service cannot afford any. Local residents do not want to have to deal with disappointed visitors. Do not create this park. Leave us free to find better solutions to the economic woes of White Pine County, Nevada.

Thank you.

[The material submitted by Mr. Griggs follows:]

WAITE A MINUTE!

A CRITICAL REVIEW OF THE

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL

BY

JOSEPH F. GRIGGS, JR.

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I. EVOLUTION OF THE 1985 PROPOSAL

In 1924 and in 1959 proposals to establish a national park in the South Snake Range of eastern Nevada (White Pine County) were made in the form of bills introduced in the Congress of the United States. Each time, these proposals were initiated by a small group of occasional visitors to the area and were supported and promoted by some environmentalist groups and by the White Pine Chamber of Commerce. This organization, composed primarily of businesspeople in the county seat at Ely, Nevada, was interested in increasing tourist traffic to Ely.

Opposition to these proposals developed quickly among several groups:

1) Residents of the immediate vicinity of the proposed park, people who live on the slopes of the South Snake Range mountains and in the adjacent valleys;
2) The professional societies of farmers, ranchers, miners and trappers;
3) Sportsmen's organizations at local and state levels; and,
4) Environmentalists who felt that the proposed area was not "of park caliber".

In 1924, discussion of the issue was limited to a few civic leaders at county, state and national levels. Between 1955 and 1959, however, the debate reached public meetings, service clubs, environmentalist organizations, households and bars throughout the state. Ultimately, these bills to create a "Great Basin National Park" were defeated because they failed to receive the support of Nevada's full delegation of national legislators.

In 1978, another proposal was made and widely discussed. The boundaries of the park in this proposal were greatly enlarged to include large portions of valleys surrounding the South Snake Range. Thus, several ranches and other significant private holdings (land, mineral claims and grazing allotments) were sought by the park promoters. Opposition to this proposal was very strong; the National Park Service expressed only lukewarm interest because of the marginal values of the site and the pricetag. This proposal was defeated before it was introduced in Congress.

In recent months another Great Basin National Park proposal has been submitted to Congress in the form of an amendment to a bill introduced in the House of Representatives, H.R. 3302, the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1985. The original intention of sponsors of this bill was to propose establishment of 14 new wilderness areas in the state totalling about 939,000 acres. The park amendment would transfer an additional 174,000 acres of national forest land, the South Snake Division of the Humboldt National Forest, to the National Park Service.

Prior to the addition of the park amendment, this wilderness bill had the support of only one of Nevada's national legislators, Representative Harry Reid, Democrat of Las Vegas. The other three legislators, Representative Barbara Vucanovich, Senator Chic Hecht, and Senator Paul Laxalt, all Republicans, have opposed it, saying that it inhibits multiple-use management over too large an area. As long as the park proposal remains a part of H.R. 3302, it is unlikely that the Republican contingent will support it. To my knowledge, however, none of the legislators have yet stated whether they would support or oppose a park bill on its own merits.

The introduction of this park amendment was a surprise to the Republican congressional delegation and to all but a handful of the state's citizens. Wilderness legislation watchers here were expecting Representative Reid to propose a wilderness area of about 50,000 acres for the South Snake Range. The site had been found inappropriate for park status not only in 1924, 1959 and 1978, but in discussions during the last two years among members of all the significant regional and national environmentalist groups (Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, National Parks and Conservation Association, Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, and others). Where, then, did the park amendment come from?

Representative Bruce Vento, Democrat of Minnesota, is a member of the Public Lands Subcommittee of the House Interior Committee. The Public Lands Subcommittee chaired by Representative John Seiberling, Democrat of Ohio, is the source of H.R. 3302. But Representative Vento is also chairman of his own subcommittee within the House Interior Committee, the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee. Because of his subcommittee assignments, Vento is responsible for making sure that natural areas of park quality are not overlooked, that they are added to the National Park System whenever possible. He inherited and maintains a list of places which might qualify. The South Snake Range, also known as Wheeler Peak, has been on this list for many years.

Representative Vento asked Representative Reid for his help in introducing the park amendment to the Nevada Wilderness Bill. Reid, wishing to touch base with local constituents, telephoned the White Pine Chamber of Commerce, which assured him that local support for a national park was strong. Reid, therefore, attached, with the consent of the Public Lands Subcommittee, the park amendment to the Nevada Wilderness Bill.

II. ROBERT STARR WAITE

The question remains: Why was the South Snake Range, after previous events years in the past, still on the list of the Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee? The answer lies primarily with the promotional efforts of Robert Starr Waite, Ph.D., a part-time Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of Utah.

For the last 16 year or so, Dr. Waite has campaigned for a Great Basin National Park, writing magazine articles and letters and giving lectures illustrated with slides. During most of this period, no one else has been active in pressing for a park in the South Snake Range. Virtually, all of the park promotion material disseminated since about 1970 has come directly from Waite or is based on his information. This information is inacurate in many details and cumulatively very misleading. The damage done over the last 16 years has been serious; people are now talking about a place that does not exist, except on paper.

Dr. Waite's promotional literature is the subject of this review. This author has read most of the written material and has attended Waite's slide presentation six times.

III. PH.D. THESIS

Robert Waite's interest in the creation of a Great Basin National Park was well developed when I met him for the first time in 1966. He was then a graduate student in the Department of Geography at UCLA; he was writing a Ph.D. thesis on the subject of the suitability of the South Snake Range, including Wheeler Peak, Lehman Caves and adjacent valleys, for national park classification.

In 1974, Waite's Ph.D. thesis was published at UCLA. It is 900 pages long and, except for files kept by the U.S. Forest Service, it is the only comprehensive description in existence of the South Snake Range from a geographer's point of view. Its pervasive bias however, is the assertion that the South Snake Range should be the nucleus of a national park. This conviction influences every chapter in the paper and prevents it from qualifying as an objective, or scientific, study.

The first 650 pages, approximately, consist of descriptions of natural features and geologic, aboriginal and pioneer history which the author says "argue strongly" for park classification. The remaining 250 pages outline Waite's concept of the type of park facilities (visitors' centers, ski lodges, roads, campgrounds, etc.) which he thinks would be desirable. He predicts an annual attendance at the park of 500,000 visitors by the end of the century, which he says will be worth $20 million in tourist money to residents of Nevada.[1] Ely, he contends, will be the "hub" of private sector tourist-oriented commerce.[2]

IV. TWELVE "PARK QUALITY" FEATURES

In his public lectures, magazine articles and other promotional literature, Dr. Waite has identified 12 standout features of the South Snake Range. These are:

1) Lehman Caves and the Baker Creek Cave System;
2) Wheeler Peak;
3) Wheeler Peak Glacier or Glacieret;
4) Wheeler Peak Rock Glacier;
5) Lexington Arch;
6) Bristlecone Pines;
7) The World's Largest Mountain Mahogany;
8) Prehistoric Fremont Indian Villages;
9) Osceola;
10) Wheeler Peak Heliograph Station;
11) Cirque Lakes;
12) Bald Mountain Ski Resort.

These features are held up as being the principle reasons for Dr. Waite's park recommendation. A critique of his descriptions and these features follows:

1) Lehman Caves and the Baker Creek Cave System

Together, these caves are described by Dr. Waite as: "...the most spacious and colorful caverns west of the Continental Divide".[3]

Lehman Caves is indeed one of the two or three most spectacular and interesting limestone caverns in the United States. Although it is relatively small, its speleothems (calcite formations) are ornate, colorful, close enough to the trail that visitors can see them clearly and are of immense variety and beauty. Lehman Caves deserves to be a national monument, as it has been since 1922.

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[1] Waite, Robert S. Proposed Great Basin National Park - The Story Behind the Scenery, University of Utah, 25 November 1985

[2] Public statement, Ely, Novada, 25 November 1985

[3] Waite, op. cit., p.3

Lehman Caves is now a national monument rather than a national park primarily because of its size and the scope of its opportunities for interpretation. It fits perfectly the traditional and present National Park Service concepts of what a national monument should be. The question which needs to be addressed is: Might it not just as well be part of a larger park if the remainder of the South Snake Range were to be so classified? The following considerations are relevant.

Dr. Waite writes: "(The caves) were preserved as a national monument in 1921".[4] This statement tells only part of the story; another part could be expressed by writing: "The caves began development as a national monument in 1922". In a public facility a certain amount of development is necessary to achieve a certain degree of preservation.

The question of how much damage should be tolerated for the sake of providing the public with a rewarding experience is one which the National Park Service continually addresses in the process of administering its parks and monuments. Its goal, of course, is to permit no damage at all, but this is impossible and practical compromises prevail. Construction of facilities and adjustments in policy occur regularly in ongoing efforts to keep deterioration of the resource to a minimum.

Examples of construction undertaken at Lehman Caves over the years include: a visitors' center; a trail system with enough headroom to eliminate the need for crawling, featuring as much as possible, one-way loops to facilitate the flow of traffic; man-made entrance and exit tunnels; an attractive, effective and reliable system of lights; piped water, staircases; railings; pavement; platforms; first aid stations and telephone lines.

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[4] Waite, Robert S., "Is It Time To Create Nevada's First National Park?" Mountainwest Magazine, June 1978, p. 18

Examples of policy adjustments include: adoption of a "Do Not Touch" regulation; prohibition of smoking, eating and drinking inside the cave; prohibition of tripods, which are unwieldy and hazardous to speleothems; adoption of a "turn-off-the-lights-behind-you" policy to minimize the growth of moss on cave surfaces and to keep members of the tour together; limitation of tour size to 40 people (early 1970's) and to 30 people (late 1970's) so that the tour guide may keep his group under surveillance.

Construction of facilities and the adoption of regulations contribute to the preservation of the resource but they also transform it. Too much development can result in too much transformation. Every space has a carrying capacity; how to determine carrying capacity is a matter of judgment and, in many cases, of trial and error.

The largest number of people to tour Lehman Caves in a single year was 47,000 in 1972. In 1985 attendance was about 37,000. With a limit of 30 people per tour, the cave has an absolute carrying capacity of 750 people per day. The monument is open year round, so if every tour were full every day of the year, the annual absolute carrying capacity would be 273,750 people. Keeping in mind however, that about 90% of the annual visitors arrive between April and October, a seven-month period, this figure must be reduced to a realistic carrying capacity each year of approximately 175,000.

Some additional changes might be made at Lehman Caves to increase its carrying capacity. More tunnels could be excavated, but this would be drastic, expensive and probably not feasible. The number of hours each day when tours were conducted could be extended. The fact is, however, that Lehman Caves has probably reached the practical limit of its potential for development. If Dr. Waite expects Great Basin National Park to be visited by 500,000 people each year, he should be aware that about 300,000 of them will not get a chance to see Lehman Caves, which he calls the "anchor" of the park.[5]

The Baker Creek Cave System and other wild caves: Dr. Waite's thesis describes additional caves, located on the national monument and nearby in the national forest, some of which, he writes, "(represent) the most extensive cave system yet discovered in the Great Basin".[6] One of them, Model Cave, "would provide an excellent laboratory for the study of cave development".[7] Of four shelter caves, he writes: "(all are) significant for their display of pictographs and assortment of speleothems...".[8] He continues: "The caves in the Baker Creek System are all interesting and each one varies in terms of its size and variety of features. At the present time, these caverns still remain in an undeveloped state".[9] Of Snake Creek Cave, Waite writes: "This cave is more extensive and more beautifully decorated than was previously believed, and contains a wide variety of speleothems, including mammalries, dog tooth spar, pure calcite stalactites and twelve-inch aragonite clusters. About 1200 feet of passageways have been surveyed, with a considerable amount left to be mapped. In this cave, as in the others, there is undoubtedly much more area to be discovered, and the removal of rock fill would give access to new passageways."[10]

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[5] Ibid., p. 17

[6] Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation of the Southern Snake Range, Nevada, University of California, Los Angeles, Ph.D., 1974, p. 85

[7] Ibid., p. 87

[8] Ibid., p. 87

[9] Ibid., p. 87

[10] Ibid., p. 87 - 88

Statements like these suggest that these undeveloped (wild) caves represent an untapped resource, which, if developed, would be of interest to tourists.

This is definitely not the case. I am intimately familiar with all of these caves, partly because I was employed by the Forest Service to explore them and catalogue their features and hazards. They do not begin to compare with Lehman Caves in configuration or quality.

With the exception of the shelter caves, all of them require great skill and extensive experience to negotiate. They are all dangerous and require the explorer to crawl long distances through rough cobble rock, mud and streams. Some of them are filled with water in spring and summer or following periods of heavy precipitation in the mountains. Loose rock in vertical chimneys is a serious hazard in many of them. Most of them require the use of ropes and other sophisticated rock-climbing equipment as well as lights, hard hats, coveralls and food. In addition, they are mazes. Even experienced cavers must excercise great caution to avoid getting lost inside them.

In 1973 the Forest Service halted construction of its Graycliffs Campground after all of its roads and spurs had been built because Baker Creek Cave System, situated nearby, was found to be an unacceptable hazard to curious campers.

Model Cave, the "excellent laboratory", is a crawlway several thousand feet long with a floor of mud, and prone to flooding. In its entire length there are only two "rooms" large enough to allow a person to stand upright. Its inner recesses cannot normally be reached in a day's time. Breathing is difficult; the air is often stale. And Model Cave contains nothing which cannot be studied to better advantage and with less effort in almost any other limestone cave in the world.

About half of the pictographs of the shelter caves are genuine; the other half were made by the Hollywood people who made a motion picture in Snake Valley in 1922. The "real" ones were made by Fremont Indians about 700 or 800 years ago, but these are so weathered and faded as to be barely visible. Meanwhile, there are thousands of Fremont pictographs not far away in Southern Utah and Northern Arizona which are perfectly easy to see and of much greater variety. The speleothems in these shelter caves, contrary to Dr. Waite's statement, are few in number, unspectacular and were virtually destroyed by collectors in 1922 and 1934. They do not merit mentioning.

Everything Dr. Waite writes about Snake Creek Cave is somehow untrue. Snake Creek Cave has been thoroughly explored and thoroughly mapped. Except for one room, it consists of hundreds of feet of tight crawlways. Rock fill which could be removed to find new passageways has long since been reomoved. The entire cave was extensively vandalized before 1900 and almost all of the remaining formations (they were unusually fine) were stripped out prior to 1950. Part of this damage was done by past proprietors of the souvenir shop at Lehman Caves, where the broken formations were sold as "Cave Onyx, not from other wild caves in the vicinity as well.

In summary, Dr. Waite is entirely justified in his admiration of Lehman Caves. But would Lehman Caves be better off as part of a national park? Would the public be better served? I do not think so. The Baker Creek Cave System and the other wild caves, on the other hand, have no potential whatever for development.

2) Wheeler Peak

This mountain, the highest in the South Snake Range at 13,063 feet, is a very beautiful place. Dr. Waite calls it "the keystone" of the park.[11] It has scenic vistas, dramatic natural landforms and a variety of visual textures in its cover of vegetation. It is quiet. Its air and water are clean. Visible evidence of the activities of human beings is minimal. Wild animals live there.

In promoting Wheeler Peak for national park classification, Dr. Waite has made some misleading statements and created some scenarios which need to be examined because they exaggerate the geological and biological importance of the mountain.

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[11] Waite, Robert S., Proposed Great Basin National Park--The Story Behind the Scenery, op. cit., p. 8.

For example: Referring to Wheeler Peak, the thesis reads: "Here at least 14,000 feet of Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian, Mississippian and Pennsylvanian strata are exposed, with only minor stratigraphic breaks occuring in the depositional sequence."[12] On a later page: "It is also interesting to note that the rock sequence in this range is comparable to the Paleozoic sequence in the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, with the lower and upper formations attaining their maximum development in each of the two areas, respectively." [13] These statement are technically correct. But condensations of these statements in the magazine articles imply an additional meaning. "Here 14,000' of strata are exposed comparable in age to the rocks in the Grand Canyon. The culminating point in this massive mountain uplift is Wheeler Peak, the most conspicuous landmark in eastern Nevada."[14] On an adjacent page is a photograph of the 2000-foot rock face of the Wheeler Peak Cirque. And in Dr. Waite's slide lecture: "...14,000 feet of exposed strata, rocks found in the same sequence and of the same age as those in the Grand Canyon". The slide on the screen is a fine photograph of the Grand Canyon.

Dr. Waite does not have a photograph of the 14,000 feet of exposed strata on Wheeler Peak, which is, after all, only 13,063 feet high and rises above the valley floors only about 8,000 feet. The tallest cliff face is about 2,000 feet from bottom to top. Where is this 14,000 feet of exposed strata? No where in the South Snake Range is there a view of exposed rock to compare with the hundreds of places in the Grand Canyon where one can see 6,000 feet of it.

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[12] Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation..., op. cit., p. 49

[13] Ibid., p. 54

[14] Waite, Robert S., "Is it Time...", op. cit., p. 18.

The answer to this mystery is spelled out in the thesis. It turns out that the South Snake Range is made of the same rock, lying in layers in the same sequence as it is in the Grand Canyon; not surprising, since the two places are only about 200 miles apart. But the layers of stratified rock were steeply titled in the area where the block-fault South Snake Range rose above the surrounding valleys, so that the strata came up on an angle and broke into sections, exposing the edges. The oldest rock, found at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, is found at the northern end of the range. As one travels southward through the mountains, preferably in the company of a geologist, one encounters younger rocks, until one reaches the south end where the sequence is completed. Most of the way the view is obstructed by the effects of weathering and the cover of trees. In other words, the 14,000 feet of exposed strata is there, but it is not exactly visible. A person cannot see it all at once or even in very large increments, even from an airplane, but only a little at a time by traveling the length of the range on foot or horseback and taking notes, pictures or samples to keep track of the story. The story would be easier to get by visiting the Grand Canyon.

It is not constructive to invite comparisions between Wheeler Peak and the Grand Canyon simply because their bedrock is similar in age and sequence. Everything else about the two places is quite characteristic of each and dissimilar to the other. Certainly there are no vistas on Wheeler Peak that compare with those in the Grand Canyon for visual impact and spectacle. And the Grand Canyon is not a national park because of the age or sequence of its rocks, but because of their spectacular exposure, their colors, shapes and shadows, the terraces, cliffs and dizzying chasms.

Concerning the Life Zones on Wheeler Peak, the following paragraph appears in one of Waite's promotional pamphlets: "BIOLOGY - SKY ISLAND FORESTS. Represented by seven North American climates, the 8,000 foot ascent of Wheeler Peak is equivalent to a 3,000 mile traverse from central Nevada to the

Arctic icecap. Within this vertical distance a wide variety of life forms are present. Bordered by shadscale and sagebrush basins, the ascending trees and life zones are the pinyon-juniper (Upper Sonoran), ponderosa pine-mountain mahogany (Transition), Douglas fir-aspen (Canadian), Englemann spruce-bristlecone pine (Hudsonian) and tundra-arctic algae (Arctic Alpine) Life Zone. This vertical rise contains a remarkable assemblage of ecological communities with changing animals, amphibians, reptiles, birds and fish, with each climatic zone.[15]

In Waite's thesis, the following: "LATITUDINAL ANALOGUE. The magnitude of the climatic sequence on the Snake Range can best be realized when it is compared to that of the Northern Hemisphere. Essentially the seven local climates represent a sequence comparable to traveling from the center of the Great Basin (39° N. latitude) to the margin of the Arctic icecap (83° N. latitude), comprising a latitudinal span of 44° or approximately 3,000 miles*". (Dr. Waite has placed a footnote here which reads as follows: Ed.) "Each 1,000 foot increase in altitude on a mountain range is approximately equivalent to a 300 mile increase in latitude. Thus, the 8,000 foot ascent from Southern Snake Valley (5,100 feet) to the summit of Wheeler Peak (13,063) is comparable to a poleward journey from the town of Baker (39° N. latitude) to Prince of Wales Island (74° N. latitude) in the Canadian Archipelago, a land distance of approximately 2,400 statute miles. The inclusion of the Wheeler Glacieret..." (this feature is discussed in the next section, Ed.) ..."in this sequence would be equivalent to raising the height of the range above the 15,000 foot level and extending the analogue another 600 miles poleward to the margin of the Arctic icecap (83° N. latitude). Since each degree of latitude is equivalent to approximately 69 statute miles, this 44° span represents a land distance of about 3,063 miles between the two locations." (End of footnote; back to the text. Ed.)

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[15] Waite, Robert S., Proposed Great Basin National Park - The Story Behind the Scenery, op. cit., p. 3.

"Thus in making a vertical ascent of the range, it is possible to travel upslope from the arid basins, through a series of forested montane zones, and reach Arctic-Alpine tundra and ice, comparable to the traverse of the polar ice-cap. Accordingly, this mountain zonation is roughly analogous to displaying the physical geography of the northern two-thirds of the North American Continent upon a single mountain range, where such values are confined to a relatively small area. Because of this compactness one can travel from a temperate desert to a zone of permanent ice in only a few hours, being equivalent to a poleward journey of several thousand miles."[16]

It is a fact that about 4½ of the 6 Merriam Life Zones can be delineated on Wheeler Peak. But the life zones on Wheeler Peak do not contain all of the same plants and animals that the same life zones in other places contain. For example: The Hudsonian Life Zone on Wheeler Peak contains two varieties of spruce (Picea engelmannii and Picea pungens) and two varieties of pines (Pinus flexilis and Pinus longaeva). The Hudsonian Life Zone anywhere in the Pacific Northwest contains other varieties of spruce and several different varieties of white and yellow pines as well as several firs and cedars, one hemlock and dozens of deciduous shrubs and trees which are not found on Wheeler Peak. To suggest that the immense variety of life forms one would encounter on the 3,000 mile journey is present on Wheeler Peak is to distort the truth considerably. Wheeler Peak has a smaller variety of both plants and animals than are found in the same life zones in the Ruby Mountains, for example, about 150 miles northwest of Wheeler Peak. The variety of Wheeler Peak's flora and fauna is a mere fraction of that found nearly everywhere else, like the Sierra Nevada, the Rockies, the Cascades and the Olympics.

[16] Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation., op. cit.,pp. 182-185.

3) Wheeler Peak Glacier or Glacieret.

This feature is described by Dr. Waite as: "...a remarkable 2,000 foot span of moving ice......"[17] and ".....the only permanent body of ice in the region".[18] Additional statements made in the thesis read as follows: "Located at the head of the deep Wheeler Cirque, it is the remnant of the large Lehman Creek Glacier that existed here during the Pleistocene. This was one of the largest ice masses in the Great Basin and was responsible for the construction of a variety of glacial land forms in Lehman Creek Canyon. With the warming of the climate in the Recent epoch, it slowly retreated headward, leaving only the small glacieret on the cirque headwall." (underlining mine, Ed.) "Today, however, this remnant is remarkable in that it is the only one of its kind in the Great Basin; and that it still exists, long after glaciers in neighboring ranges have since disappeared. Its significance also lies in its location so far south and in such close association with the present day desert. When it is realized that this body of ice exists only 6,000 feet above the arid basins, and that permanent snowline conditions at this latitude (39°N) would be above 15,000 feet", (underlining mine, Ed.) "then it becomes apparent that its presence here is atypical and represents something of a geographical anomaly."[19]

Two assertions contained in these quotes are erroneous. First, this "glacieret" is not "the remnant of the large Lehman Creek Glacier that existed here during the Pleistocene". If it were, it would be located in the bowl-shaped bottom of the old cirque, not "on the headwall". This glacieret is a "new" feature, formed in a crevice located on the steep north-facing slope of the south headwall. Secondly, this glacieret is not a permanent body of ice. Investigators during the summers of 1931, 1934 and 1978 found no trace of it. "no ice, no snow, not a drop of water to drink".[20]

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[17] Waite, Robert S. Proposed Great Basin National Park - The Story Behind the Scenery, op. cit., p. 3.

[18] Waite, Robert S., "Is It Time...?", op. cit., p. 18.

[19] Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation..., op. cit., pp. 108-109.

When Dr. Waite says that the presence here of a permanent body of ice "is atypical and represents something of a geographical anomaly", he is certainly correct. The mean temperature of the atmosphere and hence the approximate temperature of the ground at this latitude and elevation, is about 40°F. In contrast, the southern limit of Arctic permafrost is delineated by a line where the mean temperature is somewhere between 18° and 32° F.[21]

Additional quotes from Dr. Waite read: "The Wheeler Glacieret is a crescent-shaped body located on the headwall of the cirque at an elevation between 11,300 and 11,600 feet. It is approximately 2,000 feet long and 300 feet wide, with the long axis paralleling the base of the Cirque wall." (underlining mine, Ed.) "In the southeast corner it extends upward several hundred feet into the higher cliffs...while the western extension terminates near the opposite side of the cirque headwall".[22]

The only portion of the glacieret which moves along its axis (lengthwise) is the portion which "extends upward several hundred feet into the higher cliffs." This portion lies in a crevice in the headwall. Its average angle of repose is a steep 50°, so it might well be expected to slide periodically. The remainder of the glacieret lies nestled in the juncture between the base of the headwall and the cirque floor and moves only a very short distance along its short axis (sideways).

[20] Personal interview with Shirley George Robison, one of the investigators, January 1979, and personal observation, September 1978.

[21] Fairbridge, Rhodes W., The Encyclopedia of Geomorphology, Reinhard Book Corporation, New York, 1968, p. 371.

[22] Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation..., op. cit. pp. 109-111.

The dimensions of the glacieret vary considerably. A measurement made in August, 1883, gives the dimensions as 1,500 feet long, 200 feet wide and 20 to 30 feet thick.[23] In 1955, the Forest Service arrived at the dimensions given by Waite, 2,000 feet long, 300 feet wide, and an estimated thickness of 75 feet.[24]

According to annual precipitation measurements made at Baker Creek # 2 Snowcourse two miles distant from the cirque, the 1955 measurement of the glacieret was preceded by a decade in which precipitation averaged 96% of normal.[25] These dimensions, therefore, should probably be considered reliable for its average size. In August of 1977, a very dry year, the thickness of the glacieret measured only 4 feet.[26] In August of 1978, the glacieret had melted entirely. Although precipitation in 1978 was 85% of normal, the previous decade had averaged only 68%.

In years when precipitation is average or above, the glacieret is likely to remain covered with snow throughout the year; in this condition it looks like a small patch of snow in one corner of the huge cirque (2,000 feet deep, 4,000 feet wide, 8,000 feet long). In relatively dry years, however, blue ice, crevasses and bergschrunds may sometimes be seen in late August and September. Unfortunately, the cirque lakes in this vicinity, a spring season attraction, are either dry or nearly dry this late in the season.

[23] Eimbeck, William, his report in Russell, Israel C., Fifth Annual Report, 1883-1884, U.S. Geological Survey, 1884, PP. 342-343.

[24] U.S. Forest Service, "Proposed Glacier Scenic Area", Nevada National Forest, East Ely, Nevada, February 15, 1956, p. 1.

[25] Barton, Manes and Malsor, Roy E., Jr., Summary of Snow Measurements for Nevada, 1941-1962, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Nevada Department of Conservation and National Resources, September, 1962, Baker Creek # 2.

[26] Personal Conservation with J.Dean Baker, January, 1978

In summary, this glacieret, because of its intermittent existence and its location in a crevice on the cirque wall, is not the remnant of the Pleistocene glacier which once filled Lehman Creek Canyon. It should not be called a glacier because it is too small, lies at too steep an angle, and in other respects does not resemble the mental picture of a glacier which most people have. If it is called a glacier a great many people are disappointed by it. The term "glacieret", while not well known, is appropriate for this feature.

Because this glacieret is not always present, certain claims of uniqueness for Wheeler Peak must be discounted. We must subtract ½ of a life zone from Dr. Waite's description, or, to return to his latitudinal analogue, we must travel southward again from the edge of the Arctic Icecap (83° N. latitude) to Prince of Wales Island (74° N. latitude), which is roughly equivalent to shaving about 2,000 nonexistant feet from the top of the mountain. What remains is typical of what we would expect to find, and not, in fact, a "geographical anomaly".

4) Wheeler Peak Rock Glacier

Dr. Waite's description in the thesis reads, in part, as follows: "It occupies the upper portion of the large Wheeler Peak Cirque, originating at an elevation of 11,280 feet. Here it is contiguous with the lower margin of the Wheeler Glacieret, with the head of the rock stream being located about 100 feet from the cirque headwall. From this point the feature descends downslope one-half mile to the 10,720 foot level, halfway down the cirque with its terminal end located several hundred feet above the ancient bristlecone pine stand in the cirque mouth. Its areal extent is approximately one-half mile long and 600 feet wide, and has a vertical descent of 650 feet, with an average slope of about 35°".[27]

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[27] Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation..., op. cit., p. 68.

There are some small problems with this description. First, "it occupies the upper portion of the large Wheeler Peak Cirque" implies that it is larger than it really is. A better description might read: "It lies in the bottom of the upper portion of the cirque". Secondly, its terminal end is not located "halfway down the cirque... several hundred feet above the ancient bristlecone pine stand", but instead, "about ¼ of the way down the cirque, several thousand feet above the bristlecones..." Thirdly, subtracting 10,720 (lower end elevation) from 11,280 (upper end elevation) leaves an elevation difference of 560 feet rather than 650. This is probably a typographical error. Nevertheless, its average slope is about 11° instead of 35°.

Continuing with Dr. Waite's description: "In terms of the geomorphic character of the rock glacier it is not entirely uniform throughout, but rather is composed of two somewhat differing sections: 1) a younger upper segment underlain by ice of the Wheeler Glacieret that is helping to actively move the rock mass downslope; and, 2) an older lower segment roughly divided into two benches, that is not underlain by ice and appears to be more stabilized in its downward progression. The upper portion located in juxtaposition to the Wheeler Glacieret, benefits directly from the lubricating effect of the underlying ice during the periods of summer melting, which imparts a type of glacial movement to the rock mass. The permanence of this subsurface ice is insured because of its buried, protected location, and the persistently cold temperature conditions in the upper cirque throughout the year....Although the extent of the frozen layer is unknown, it is likely it may extend several hundred feet downslope, being coincident with the upper portion of the feature".[28]

In the foregoing description, the permanence of the ice underlying the upper "segment" of the rock glacier is a mere

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[28] Ibid, p. 70.

assumption. The reasoning here appears to be that because the upper segment moves periodically downslope, it must be underlain by a field of permanent ice. This assumption is unwarranted for two reasons: First, the elevation of the rock glacier is about 4,000 feet lower than one would expect to find permanent ice at this latitude, with a mean and ground temperature of about 40°F. And although Dr. Waite alludes to "its buried, protected location, and persistently cold temperature conditions in the upper cirque throughout the year", he has not demonstrated, nor has anyone else, that the temperature is cold enough to sustain permanent ice. Secondly, a rock glacier does not require a bed of permanent ice in order to move downslope en masse. Consider the following:

"(Rock glaciers) are well known in parts of the Alps, the Pyrenees, Scandinavia and in the Rocky Mountains, (especially Montana, Wyoming and Colorado). The components are glacially riven boulders and angular fragments. The shape of these talus trains is rather similar to that of a true glacier, except that ice is normally absent. They are up to a few kilometers wide, 1,000 meters long and 50 meters thick. They are lubricated by seasonal penetration of snow and melt water and are constantly in motion due to freeze and thaw (elevation and constriction). The angle of flow may be quite gentle, less than 5°.... Some formerly active rock streams are now inactive or very sluggish owing to the climatic amelioration of the last half century."[29]

There seems to be convincing evidence that the upper portion of the rock glacier moves seasonally down the slope, pushing hard against the "more stabilized" lower portion. This lower portion however, is now motionless according to all studies made to date. It does have the classical form of a rock stream nevertheless, and no doubt this portion has moved in characteristic fashion over long periods of time in the past.

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[29] Fairbridge, Rhodes W., The Encylopedia of Geomorphology. Reinhold Book Corporation, New York, 1968, p. 966.

My concern here is not to dispute the existence of the rock glacier, but to indicate that certain aspects of its description are inaccurate. It is a mistake to assume that movement of the rock glacier constitutes evidence of permanent glacial ice on Wheeler Peak. And since recent movement of the lower portion of the rock stream has not been substantiated, it is probably not accurate to suggest that the entire formation is in motion.

5) Lexington Arch

Dr. Waite's description of Lexington Arch in the thesis is reasonably accurate. It does have "a span of approximately 120 feet with an opening 75 feet high".[30] It is made of Oriole Limestone and is the largest arch of its kind in the Great Basin, or, as Waite has said during his slide lectures, "perhaps in the entire world".

Notwithstanding, Lexington Arch is neither impressive nor beautiful. It is important to note that there are, just outside the Great Basin, less than a day's drive away in southern Utah, scores of sandstone arches in places like Canyonlands National Park, Rainbow Bridge National Monument, Natural Bridges National Monument, Capitol Reef National Park and Arches National Park.

Sandstone arches are visually exciting and these are known to be the most beautiful in the world. They are graceful, colorful, weathered smooth and located in settings where the surrounding scenery is dramatic. In comparison, Lexington Arch looks crude; its color is gray and its texture rough. It looks heavy rather than graceful. It is situated in a winding canyon with high, steep slopes on both sides so that its profile does not show up in contrast against its surroundings or the sky unless one happens to find exactly the right spot. The fact of its existence in connection with Great Basin geology is virtually meaningless; it is a novelty, nothing more.

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[30] Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geological Interpretation..., op. cit., p. 63.

Many of the people who come to the South Snake Range are on their way to or from the Utah parks and monuments. Most visitors to Lexington Arch are disappointed by it; they find it relatively unremarkable. A few have said that they saw its name on a map, went to see it and came back feeling that it was a waste of time.

6) Bristlecone Pines

One of Dr. Waite's magazine articles contains the following short paragraph: "The Snake Range is of particular botanical interest because it contains the world's oldest known trees, ancient bristlecone pine (Pinus longaeva) with some trees exceeding 5,000 years in age."[31] His most recent promotional pamphlet contains the following statements: "Ancient 5,000 year old bristlecone pine have outlived all other life forms...."[32] "Today 5,000 year old trees and wood fragments dating back 10,000 years, still survive." [33] The first sentence in the bristlecone pine section of the thesis reads as follows: "The Snake Range...contains the oldest known bristlecone pine (Pinus longaeva) with some individuals being over 5,000 years old."[34]

Each of these statements, repeated many times the last 16 years, not only by Waite, but by Sierra Club publications[35] and others, is untrue and misleading as follows:

One bristlecone pine tree has been found which was still alive at the age of about 5,200 years. This tree grew on a lateral moraine above the Wheeler Peak Cirque. It was cut down in 1964 by Donald R. Curry, a geography professor who wanted to find out how old it was. No other bristlecone pine tree, living or dead, has been found which attained the age of 5,000 years. The oldest tree now known is living in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Primitive Area, Inyo National Forest, in the White Mountains of California; it is somewhere between 4,600 and 4,700 years old.

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[31] Waite, Robert S., "Is It Time.....?", op. cit., p. 38.

[32] Waite, Robert S., Proposed Great Basin National Park - The Story Behind The Scenery, op. cit., p. 2.

[33] Ibid., p. 4

[34] Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation..., op. cit.,p.310

[35] See Baker, James, "The Snake Range, Alpine Lakes and Bristlecone Pines", Sierra Club Magazine, Jan-Feb, 1984.

Bristlecone pines have not "outlived all other life forms". Ginko biloba, a Chinese species of tree, may be twice as old as the species Pinus longaeva.[36] Looked at another way, creosote bushes in California, clones of an ancient root system, live to be 3,000 years older than bristlecone pines, and a Pennsylvania box huckleberry lives somewhere between 8,000 and 13,000 years. Cattails in the Nile may be older still.[37]

"Other life forms" aside, the oldest trees in the world are probably not bristlecone pines either, but cedars which grow in Japan (Cryptomeria japonica), some of which may be well over 6,000 years old.[38] China's dawn redwoods may also be older than bristlecone pines.

Any wood fragments known to be 10,000 years old would be located at the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research, University of Arizona, Tucson. According to the laboratory's director, Dr. C.W. Ferguson, the master chonology for bristlecone pines now reaches back about 9,200 years.[39] No one has ever found a 10,000 year old bristlecone pine fragment, although one which may have been far older was burned in a campfire by an archeology professor.[40]

Thus the tree ring record provided by bristlecone pines which Waite says is expected to reach back to the last

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[36] McWhirter, Norris, Guinness Book of World Records, Stirling Publishing Company, New York Bantam Edition, 1979, p.119.

[37] Heinrichs, Jay, "Is It The Oldest Living Thing?", National Wildlife, December-January, 1986, p. 21.

[38] McWhirter, op. cit., p. 119.

[39] Personal conversation with C.W. Ferguson.

[40] Personal conversation with C.W. Ferguson.

Ice Age[41] actually goes back only half or two-thirds that distance in time.

Bristlecone pine forests throughout the six-state habitat of the bristlecone pine have been searched carefully in the last 30 years. Though not impossible, it is unlikely that older bristlecone pine trees will be discovered.

Dr. Waite's thesis makes reference to four important stands of bristlecone pines. One of these, the Mt. Moriah stand, is situated on an adjacent mountain range well outside the boundaries of the proposed national park. Another, located on "Bristlecone Peak", is, in fact, insignificant. Dr. Ferguson obtained core samples from all likely-looking trees in this vicinity. They are neither very old nor very numberous. Dead snags proved to be relatively young also. Meanwhile, Dr. Waite is the only person in the world who calls this place "Bristlecone Peak".

To summarize the remainder of Waite's thesis on this subject: The section devoted to bristlecone pines is 33 pages long. It contains an average of one substantive error for every five sentences.

7) The World's Largest Mountain Mahogany

In one of Dr. Waite's magazine articles he writes: "The world's largest known (mountain mahogany) is found in Lehman Creek Canyon at the upper Lehman Creek Campground. Its height is about 40 feet."[42]

The campground in which this tree grows was built about 40 years ago, before the tree was suspected of being the largest of its species. People have chopped off several of its limbs. Mountain mahoganies are usually about the size of a typical apple tree. Picture the world's largest apple tree, about 40 feet high and you will realize that this is not a spectacle of the first magnitude. But wait a minute. This tree is in fact only 23 feet high and it is dying of old age. Ely District Forest Ranger Paul DeMuelle says that it will certainly be gone in 5 to 10 years.[43]

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[41] Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation..., op. cit. p. 343.

[42] Waite, Robert S., "Is It Time...?" op. cit., p. 38.

8) Prehistoric Fremont Indian Villages

In Dr. Waite's thesis, a relatively large amount of space is devoted to the history of aboriginal occupation of the Great Basin. The information is comprehensive in scope, based on textbooks and the theoretical interpretations of archeologists who have excavated sites of Indian habitation throughout the Western United States. Dr. Waite envisions the Great Basin National Park as a place where this story should be told, illustrated with local artifacts. He maintains that the South Snake Range is one of the best places to tell this story because of the wealth of Indian habitation sites in the area.

Waite writes in a magazine article: "Two ancient Fremont Indian Villages, representing primitive man's highest stage of development in the Great Basin, are located here. The prehistoric Indian villages are particularly interesting because they represent the most westerly known Fremont settlements, a culture that originated eastward on the Colorado plateau in the vicinity of the Four Corners Area."[44] In the thesis he writes: "The Garrison site was partially excavated during the summer of 1952, while the Baker site still remains unexcavated, affording a fine research opportunity for further investigation".[45]

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[43] Personal conversation, 22 December, 1985.

[44] Waite, Robert S., "Is It Time....?", op. cit., p. 38.

[45] Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation... op. cit., p. 401.

In fact, nothing resembling a "village" is visible at either of these sites. At Garrison, a trained observer, having been told what to look for, can search and usually find the locations of some of the structures. When this site was partly excavated by University of Utah students during a two-month period in 1952, the excavations were bulldozed in at the end of the project. At this and other sites, all of what Dr. Waite describes remains buried. Although the Garrison site retains some potential for future excavation and study, the Baker site and others in the vicinity have little or no potential because their remains have been widely scattered by stream and flash-flood action.[46] Meanwhile, within a few hundred miles to the east and south lie hundreds of similar village sites which are in much better condition. These constitute a long list of high-priority sites which will require many years to investigate if funds become available.[47]

In addition to the fact that these habitation sites are of very marginal value compared with hundreds of others, they are not located inside the boundaries of the proposed park. There are no villages, Fremont or otherwise, located within these boundaries. The nearest site is about 5 miles away and all of them but one are located on privately owned land where they are protected by "thou-shalt-not-dig" policies of the owners.

The remote location of these sites would present essentially two problems: the first, to park administrators, that of interpretation; the second, to local residents, that of trespass. Most professional interpreters know better than to try to interest people in something they cannot see. In addition, many people are not content merely to look at the photographs and displays which are provided; they want to see villages. This results in trespass as curious strangers wander onto private property. Thus, for practical purposes, all of the sites of Indian villages in the vicinity of the South Snake Range are probably beyond the reach of the proposed national park.

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[46] Personal conversation onsite with Evan Debloois, Ph.D., Cheif Archeologist, Region 4, U.S. Forest Service, Ogden, Utah, October, 1975.

[47] Ibid.

9) Osceola

Another large section of Dr. Waite's thesis is devoted to a long recitation on pioneer history. Most of it was taken from textbooks. Part of it comes from the files at Lehman Caves National Monument where some of the National Park Service employees have made valient attempts over the years to compile a history of Snake Valley for use by their tour guides. This material is inaccurate through no fault of Waite's except that he has apparently accepted it uncritically.

Dr. Waite's discussions of local history are full of misunderstandings, yet he insists that pioneer history should be one of the major themes of interpretation at the proposed park. To this end he recommends Osceola as a site for this interpretation. In a magazine article he writes: "Osceola, one of the most famous gold-producing towns in Nevada, is unique in that it was the largest gold mining center in White Pine County. Located in Grubstake Gulch at 6,800 feet on the western side of the range, it is one of the most interesting of the 250 ghost towns in the Great Basin. During its existence, it was the longest-lived placer town in the region: It produced the largest gold nugget found in Nevada, weighing approximately 25 pounds; contained a ride-in saloon where a patron could ride up to the bar, order his drink and never dismount; and is known for the historic Osceola ditch, an ingenious scheme devised to carry water from both sides of the range to supply the hydraulic mining operations."[48]

The situation with regard to Osceola is similar to that of the Indian villages. There is a little left of one of the buildings, part of its rock walls. The rest of the town burned down and blew away nearly half a century ago. Osceola is not located inside the proposed park boundaries. Every inch of the site and its surrounding terrain has been taken up by private mineral claims which date back to the 1880's and is worked each year by modern earthmoving equipment. In short, Osceola is gone; it is history.

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[48] Waite, Robert S., "Is It Time...?", op. cit., p. 38.

Dr. Waite's plan concerning Osceola is, of course, to rebuild it; buy out the people who own it (or, to be more specific, invalidate their mineral claims through legal or legislative action), put "Grubstake Gulch" back about where it was, and restore the old ghost town.

Whether the National Park Service would choose to undertake this ambitious and expensive project is not known. This uncertainty causes a great deal of concern to those who own mineral claims in Osceola and elsewhere. Many local residents would lose significant amounts of private capital and access to valuable natural resources if the park were established. Uncertainty about remote sites such as Osceola or the Indian villages amounts to uncertainty about how much these local residents are being asked to sacrifice. It would be helpful to know whether these sites really figure in the park proposal or not.

10) Wheeler Peak Heliograph Station

In a magazine article, Dr. Wiate writes: "In 1881, members of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey entered the Great Basin to conduct the first largescale land survey of the region. In this work prominent mountain peaks were used for survey stations, from which point-triangulation measurements were made. These stations were located on prominent peaks extending from the Southern Rocky Mountains to Mt. Shasta, California. On these selected mountain peaks, heliographs or heliotropes were established which consisted of large mirrors mounted on tripods that worked on a swivel. The mirrors could be rotated to catch the sun's rays and reflect communication during the daylight hours."[49]

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[49] Ibid., p. 38.

This story is relatively interesting and offers a good opportunity for interpretation. Nevertheless, the project would be a relatively simple one; most of what in known about the heliograph station on Wheeler Peak is contained in the paragraph above. There are no artifacts left to protect at the summit where the station was located. The Forest Service, the agency responsible for the site at the present time, has researched the story thoroughly and developed plans for its interpretation. It is not necessary to create a national park in order that this interpretation opportunity may be recognized and realized.

11) Cirque Lakes

A description in one of Dr. Waite's magazine articles reads: "On the Southern Snake Range are six attractive glacial lakes. Five of the lakes are situated in high cirque basins at elevations above 10,000 feet: Stella Lake, Teresa Lake and Brown Lake in upper Lehman Creek Canyon; and Baker and Johnson Lakes at the head of Baker Creek and Snake Creek Canyons. They are all formed in glacial cirques and impounded behind recessional morainal dams. The water is exceptionally clear, forming the home for rainbow and brook trout."[50]

Dr. Waite says these lakes are attractive. In the early spring season almost anyone would agree with him. But they are small and they begin to dry up as soon as the snow melts, By midsummer they are halfway down and by fall of some years some of them are entirely dry. The largest, Baker Lake, becomes a series of small ponds surrounded by acres of bare rocks. The photographs which Dr. Waite uses in his slide lectures to illustrate these lakes were all taken in the spring when the lakes are high.

Two of the six lakes contain fish; the other do not because they freeze solid during winters when there is water left in them.

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[50] Ibid., p. 38.

12) Bald Mountain Ski Resort

This is the last of Dr. Waite's dozen features which he insists are good reasons for making the South Snake Range into a national park. This resort does not exist at the present time but Waite seems convinced that it should be built and that it will be a profitable enterprise. It would be privately operated under the supervision of the National Park Service.

Dr. Waite writes in the thesis: "In considering the development of a Bald Mountain Ski Area, there are four important factors that need to be considered: the 1) presence of sufficient snow; 2) local slope characteristics; 3) accessibility to potential skiers; and, 4) attractiveness of the area to the skiing public. First, from snow surveys made at the Baker Creek Snowcourse over the past twenty-five years, it has been established that sufficient snow is present even in the driest years....In average years the snowpack is generally over 5 feet deep, as indicated by snow markers placed in Baker Creek Canyon. This cover is present from mid-November to mid-April, indicating that adequate snow conditions exist over a five-month period, a span comparable to other western mountains."[51]

In cooperation with the Forest Service and under a contract with the Soil Conservation Service, I have been measuring the snow (depth and water content) at the Baker Creek Snowcourses every year since 1969. Measurements are made in exactly the same place two or three times each winter according to strict procedures established many years ago. Data obtained in this manner are used to predict water runoff figures for the spring and summer seasons to follow.

In average years the snowpack is generally over five feet deep on the higher of the two Baker Creek Snowcourses only at the end of March, the approximate peak of snowpack depth each year. This cover is not present at this depth from mid-November to mid-April. The average depth here at the end of

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[51] Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation...,op.cit.,pp.713-714.

January is about 3 feet; in dry years it can read less than one foot.

This Baker Creek Snowcourse is located at about 9,100 feet in the bottom of a deep canyon, a protected location several miles from the area proposed for the Bald Mountain Ski Resort. In order to correlate the amount of snow at Bald Mountain with the depths measured at Baker Creek, the Forest Service measured snow at Bald Mountain in March of 1979. At that time the depth at the Baker Creek Snowcourse was 68 inches. The deepest measurement found anywhere across the area of the proposed ski resort was 34 inches; the average was a little over 2 feet.[52] This measurement, taken at the peak time for snowpack depth in an average year, indicates that there is probably not enough snow to support a ski resort for even one month in an average year.

The remainder of Dr. Waite's disscussion in the thesis consists of conjecture and optimism about the feasibility of this ski resort, which would feature a ski lodge with luxury facilities and one of the longest lifts in the United States.[53] Few figures are given. This section ends with the statement: "Certainly if Sun Valley, Idaho, can succeed, which occupies an even more remote location, the same potential exists for a ski resort in eastern Nevada".[54]

V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Dr. Waite's descriptions of twelve features which "argue strongly" that the South Snake Range should be classified as a national park are seriously inaccurate. When the errors are noted, the author's claims of the uniqueness and suitability of the proposed site collapse; we are left with twelve features which are of marginal "park quality" value at best.

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[52] Personal knowledge. This author obtained the measurements.

[53] Waite, Robert Starr, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation..., op. cit. pp. 708-712.

[54] Ibid., p. 717.

Waite's estimate that 500,000 people per year will visit the park by the end of the century is not supported by a study; it is nothing more than a guess and a hope. Canyonlands National Park, recently established in southern Utah, has not attracted the numbers of visitors predicted by its promoters. All of the small towns in the vicinity of Canyonlands display a number of boarded-up motels and cafes.[55] The number of visitors at Redwood National Park in California, another recent park, has been 20 to 25% of the predicted number.[56] I believe that Dr. Waite's figure of 500,000 is at least twice as high as it should be.

At the same time, Dr. Waite has grossly underestimated the economic value of capital, natural resources and commerce associated with withdrawing the South Snake Range from multiple-use management. These lossess would probably be about five to ten times as much as Dr. Waite has indicated.

We are left with a large number of unanswered questions about what to expect if Great Basin National Park is established. How many visitors is the National Park Service expecting? What kinds of facilities would the National Park Service expect to construct inside the park? Are the proposed boundaries firm or will they expand in the future? Does the National Park Service have any interest in the Indian Villages or Osceola and does it have the funds to develop them? If so, what sorts of alternative plans will be considered? What restrictions will be placed on grazing and mining inside the park? These questions and many others need to be answered before the debate on the park question can proceed in a constructive direction. Dr. Waite's promotional literature does not constitute a study which will help answer these questions. New studies are urgently needed, particularly in the area of economics.

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[55] Personal knowledge.

[56] Personal conversation with Russell D. Butcher, a staff-person of the National Parks and Conservation Association, Washington, D.C., 13 January 1986.

The value of the park to the economy of the state and the county is an unknown quantity at the present time. Also unknown is the nature and extent of development which the National Park Service will recommend after spending three years in the completion of a management plan. Meanwhile, an alliance of environmentalists and commercialists pushes the proposal forward. This alliance is inherently weak because each of these groups has different reasons for wanting a national park. These reasons, once a practical level is reached, will be in direct conflict with one another.

Once a Great Basin National Park is established, the practical level will have been reached. The environmentalists and the commercialists will find themselves on opposite sides of most subsequent park-related issues. Who will take the responsibility for resolving the conflicts which the promoters of this park will be unable to keep under control?

The National Park Service will probably have the deciding influence in determining how the existence of the park will affect the adjacent communities. My guess is that the park, if established, will prove to be a disappointment to virtually everyone and most of all, ultimately, to the employees of the National Park Service who will have a tough and nasty job on their hands, that of trying to administer an over-sold and sub-standard national park.

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Senator HECHT. And thank you very much.
Mr. Alfred M. Buranek.

STATEMENT OF ALFRED M. BURANEK, NATIONAL TREASURE MINES CO., SALT LAKE CITY, UT

Mr. BURANEK. My name is Alfred M. Buranek. I reside in Salt Lake City. I am a graduate geologist by profession and during World War II served as geologist for the State of Utah from 1941 through 1948. Other than a 2-year leave of absence while in the Armed Forces, for the past 20 years I have been president and general manager of a small publicly owned resource company, National Treasure Mines, which controls and virtually owns Mount Wheeler Mines, Inc.

It is the purpose of my testimony to present factual information and data on the unique beryllium mineral occurrences of the Mount Wheeler area, White Pine County, and the uncalculable loss not only to the aforementioned companies and adjoining property owners, but more importantly to the Nation as a whole, are these strategic and critical mineral deposits. If these critical mineral deposits are forever lost because of the little-needed and untimely creation of a national park.

It should be recognized that major beryllium deposits are extremely rare in the United States, and elsewhere throughout the world. The only ongoing mining of beryllium ore in the United States is Brush Wellman's operation at Spor Mountain, Utah.

Beryllium in its brief entrance into the industrial fields has become a most vital and necessary industrial metal. Already its uses are manifold, but it is a must to defense applications, nuclear, and aerospace programs in forms of metal, beryllium-copper alloys, and beryllium oxide. Its high conductivity, strength, and light weight permits certain alloys to be aptly termed the metal of no fatigue.

At the congressional hearing held in Ely, NV, November last which I attended, I was appalled at the misinformation or complete lack of knowledge concerning the mineral deposits of the Mount Wheeler region, particularly concerning the ore zones and reserves of the Mount Wheeler mine. To rectify this unjust attitude and opinion the services of Ford, Bacon & Davis were solicited to prepare an unbiased feasibility study of the Mount Wheeler mine. After 4½ months in preparation, this study is now complete and herewith submitted for the committee's perusal.[1]

In brief, the 72-page report is an indepth study which thoroughly analyzes the potential for development of the Mount Wheeler mine. The development philosophy adopted in the report is based on a two-phased approach to full capacity of the mine in concentrated facilities of 150,000 tons per year and concludes the Mount Wheeler project to be a world-class deposit of beryllium, tungsten, tin, and fluoride with ultimately recoverable silver, lead, and zinc ores containing more than $3 billion worth of these minerals.

In addition, based on a proven geologic model and projected only to 640 acres the total tonnage potential could exceed 20 million tons of mineable ore. It further states the project payback period to be 2½ years, and during the lifetime of only 10 years the project will generate over $91 million of after-tax profit. Total revenues from concentrates is over $185 million. Total capital required for a 200-ton-a-day mine concentrator complex is some $11 million. Expansion to 500 tons per day requires an additional $4 million.

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[1] Report retained in subcommittee files.

The mine will create 92 permanent jobs in the first phase, and 171 in the second phase, and will produce millions of dollars of revenue for the local community and the government.

The above statements pertain only to the holdings of Mount Wheeler Mines, Inc. It does not qualify the potential of the known similar but little developed adjoining properties of Chris Jensen, George Swallow, Reed Robison, and the better explored deposits of the Washington Minerals.

The latter holdings are described by the Ponderosa Beryllium Report by Lawrence E. Smith, consulting geologist, who directed geologic mapping, geochemical sampling, and subsequent drilling and trenching during the early to mid-seventies. Copies of this report are presented in behalf of Washington Minerals.[2]

During the past several years, Dr. Martin together with two graduate students for the Department of Earth and Space Sciences, University of California, Los Angeles, have been conducting a study of the Mount Wheeler mines areas.

Senator HECHT. Excuse me. You will have to summarize. Your time is up.

Mr. BURANEK. And even less recognized, beryllium, tungsten, tin deposits.

I have a letter here for testimony which will be included.

Senator HECHT. Yes, we have your entire testimony.

In summation, do you think it wise to completely destroy or impede the ultimate development of a badly needed major resource area to the creation of a National Park when multiple use advantages are now in harmonious existence under the able jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service?

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Buranek follows:]

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[2] Report retained in subcommittee files.

STATEMENT OF ALFRED M. BURANEK

FOR

NATIONAL TREASURE MINES COMPANY
MT. WHEELER MINES, INC.
AND
WASHINGTON MINERALS AND OTHER
ADJOINING MINERAL INTERESTS OF
THE MT. WASHINGTON MININING DISTRICT
WHITE PINE COUNTY, NEVADA

TO

PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
358 DIRKSEN
U.S. SENATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

RE: S. 2506
A BILL TO ESTABLISH A GREAT BASIN
NATIONAL PARK IN THE STATE OF NEVADA
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Public Land Subcommittee
Energy Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Alfred M. Buranek. I reside in Salt Lake City, Utah. I am a graduate geologist by profession and during World War II served as geologist for the State of Utah from 1941 through 1948, other than a two year leave of absence while in the armed forces. For the past twenty years, I have been president and general manager of a small publicly owned resource company - National Treasure Mines Company which controls and virtually owns Mt. Wheeler Mines, Inc.

It is the purpose of my testimony to present factual information and data on the unique beryllium mineral occurrences of the Mt. Wheeler area in White Pine County, Nevada, and the uncalcuable loss not only to the afore mentioned companies and adjoining property owners - but more importantly to the Nation as a whole if these strategic and critical mineral deposits are forever lost because of a little needed and untimely creation of a National Park. It should be recognized that major beryllium deposits are extremely rare in the United States and elsewhere throughout the world. The only ongoing mining of beryllium ore in the United States is Brush Wellman's operation at Spor Mountain, Utah. Beryllium in its brief entrance into industrial fields has become a most vital and necessary industrial metal. Already its uses are manifold, but it is a must to defense applications, nuclear and aerospace programs in forms of metal, beryllium-copper alloys, and beryllium oxide. It's high conductivity, strength and light weight permits certain alloys to be aptly termed the "metal of no fatigue".

At the Congressional hearing held in Ely, Nevada, November last - which I attended - I was appalled at the misinformation or complete lack of knowledge concerning the mineral deposits of the Mt. Wheeler region, particularly concerning the ore zones and reserves of the Mt. Wheeler Mine. To rectify this unjust attitude and opinion, the services of Ford, Bacon & Davis were solicited to prepare an unbiased feasibility study of the Mt. Wheeler Mine. After four and one-half months in preparation, this study is now completed and herewith submitted for the Committee's perusal. In brief, this 72 page report is an indepth study which thoroughly analyzes the potential for development of the Mt. Wheeler Mine. The development philosophy adopted in the report is based on a two phase approach to full capacity of mine and concentrator facilities of 150,000 tons per year (TPY), and concludes the Mt. Wheeler project to be a world class deposit of beryllium, tungsten, tin and fluorite, with ultimately recoverable silver and lead-zinc ores containing more than three billion dollars worth of these minerals. In addition, based on proven geologic model and projected only to 640 acres, the total tonnage potential could exceed 20 million tons of mineable ore. It further states the project payback period to be 2.5 years and during the lifetime of only 10 years, the project will generate over 91 million dollars of after tax profit. Total revenue from concentrates is over 185 million dollars. Total capital required for 200 TPD mine-concentrator complex is some 11 million dollars - expansion to 500 TPD requires additional 4 million dollars. The mine will create 92 permanent jobs in the first phase and 171 in the second phase and will produce millions of dollars revenue for the local community and government.

The above statements pertain only to holdings of Mt. Wheeler Mines, Inc. - it does not qualify potential of the known similar, but little developed, adjoining properties of Robert L. Christiansen, George Swallow, Reed Robison, and the better explored deposits of Washington Minerals. The latter holdings are described by the Ponderosa Beryllium Report by Lawrence E. Smith, consulting geologist, who directed geologic mapping, geochemical sampling and subsequent drilling and trenching during the early to mid seventies. Copies of this report are presented in behalf of Washington Minerals.

During the past several years, Dr. Mark D. Barton, together with two graduate students, for the Department of Earth and Space Sciences, University of California, Los Angeles, have been conducting a study of the Mt. Wheeler areas little understood and even less recognized Be, W, Sn, F, deposits. In a letter report included herewith, he states "The deposits in Nevada are remarkably similar to the major ore deposits in China and the Soviet Union. These similarities suggest that there is considerable potential for significant ore deposits of this type in eastern Nevada. The potential can only be evaluated properly through exploration coupled with scientific investigation".

He concludes "At least three areas in the Southern Snake Range have similar mineralization: The Mt. Wheeler Mine area, the Pole Canyon Pluton (east side) and the Lexington Creek Pluton (east side). The Mt. Wheeler Mine area is exceptional, among the dozen or so localities of which I am aware, in that it contains the highest grade mineralization and also is among the largest potential resource of beryllium". Additional data concerning this study will be available from Dr. Barton in the immediate future.

In summation - do you think it wise to completely destroy or impede the ultimate development of a badly needed major resource area to the creation of a National Park, when multiple use advantages are now in harmonius existence under the able jurisdiction of the United States Forest Service?

Respectfully submitted,

Buranek

Alfred M. Buranek, President
National Treasure Mines Company
165 South West Temple, Suite #400
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101
(801) 531-8713

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

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DEPARTMENT OF EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES
[illegible] GEOLOGY BUILDING
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

November 20, 1985

Mr. Alfred M. Buranek, President
National Treasure Mines Company
Building #2, Suite 400
165 S. West Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Dear Al:

In response to your phone call yesterday, I am writing to tell you a bit more about the work that I am doing at the Mount Wheeler Mine and in nearby parts of eastern Nevada. One of my main research interests is in understanding the origin of granite-related lithophile-element (for example, Be, W, Sn, Mo) mineral deposits. I began working on these sorts of problems for my Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Chicago. There I studied the stability relations of beryllium minerals and topaz and applied those results to lithophile-element deposits. At the same time I started studying a very large fluorine-rich skarn near Eureka, Nevada. That field project has lead me into my current work on lithophile-element deposits in the western United States.

My investigations have several aims: 1) to describe many of the deposits in sufficient detail so that their characteristics (mineralogy, ore grades, geology) can be compared and contrasted, 2) to perform geochemical and petrological studies of the rocks in order to determine the conditions under which they formed and the sources from which they were derived, and 3) to develop a theoretical model that relates the observed similarities and differences among the deposits. This multifaceted approach should improve our general understanding of how the principal ore deposits of the lithophile elements form. There has been relatively little work on this problem in the United States (in the last 25 years), largely because little of our consumption of these materials (excepting beryllium) has been met by imports. The deposits in Nevada are remarkably similar to major ore deposits in China and the Soviet Union. These similarities suggest that there is considerable potential for significant ore deposits of this type in eastern Nevada. The potential can only be evaluated properly through exploration coupled with scientific investigation.

The southern Snake Range contains some of the best examples of Nevada-type lithophile-element deposits. The Be mineralization has been known for some time (for example, Stager, 1960), and tungsten was mined in the area as early as World War I. At least three areas in the southern Snake Range have similar mineralization: the Mount Wheeler mine area, the Pole Canyon pluton (east side), and the Lexington Creek pluton (east side). In addition, tungsten was produced from many other mines in range. The Mount Wheeler mine area is exceptional among the dozen or so localities of which I am aware in that it contains the highest grade mineralization and also is among the largest potential resources of beryllium.

Enclosed is a copy of a newly submitted abstract on some of my Nevada studies. I trust that you find this overview of my work useful. I much appreciate your cooperation in my investigations in the southern Snake Range.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Barton

Mark D. Barton
Assistant Professor of Geology
and Geochemistry

MDB/gk

Encl.

1986 GSA ABSTRACT FORM

USE THIS FORM FOR ALL 1986 GSA MEETINGS (SECTION & ANNUAL MEETINGS)

YOU MUST COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS BELOW, 1 THROUGH 7

1 TYPE YOUR ABSTRACT IN THE SPACE BELOW using fresh black carbon ribbon. Follow the format shown on the attached instructions. Blue lines below show **absolute** limits. *Do not fold abstract; mail flat with reinforcement to avoid retyping charge.*

№ 102096

LITHOPHILE ELEMENT MINERALIZATION ASSOCIATED WITH LATE CRETACEOUS TWO-MICA GRANITES IN NEVADA AND CALIFORNIA

BARTON, Mark D., Department of Earth and Space Sciences, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024

Late Cretaceous (69-86 m.y.) strongly peraluminous two-mica granitoids are intimately associated with an unusual style of lithophile element mineralization. Eight areas with characteristic mineralization have been identified in a region stretching from eastern Nevada to eastern California roughly corresponding to the axis of the Cordilleran miogeocline. Alteration is typified by strong F and Al metasomatism. Skarns are typically stockworks with the sequence (early to late): gt+px±id±fl-px+fl+ep+amph+chl±zth±(ap+mu+fl+phl±carb±ap+qz+mu+fl±carb(+Ag-bearing qz-carb veins). Ore minerals (found with hydrous skarn) include: sph, py, po, sch, mol, beryl, phenakite, bertrandite and ccp. In clastic rocks, qz veins contain py±mu±fl±sch. The intrusives commonly contain abundant aplites, pegmatites and qz veins (±beryl±wolf±mol; greisen envelopes) with lesser amounts mu+fl greisen and albititization. Grades can exceed 25% CaF$_2$, 4% Zn, 1% BeO, 1% W, 0.5% Mo, and 500ppm Sn. The McCullough Butte, Nevada area contains ≈10^7 tons of ≈10% CaF$_2$. This style of mineralization resembles lithophile element ore deposits in Asia, Australia and Alaska.

Field relations and available stable isotope data indicate magmatic components in the F-rich alteration with or without minor meteoric/connate/host components. The intrusions have some characteristics of a reduced, sedimentary source: $\delta^{18}O(w.r.) = 9.1\text{-}13.4‰$, $(^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr)_i = 0.711\text{-}0.737$, CaO + MgO $\lesssim$ 2 wt%, and low opaques. Other features are incompatible with a highly evolved source (or magma): Rb/Sr $\lesssim$ 0.3, La/Yb > 10, and Eu/Eu* > 0.7. The high F content and high-Al mobility in these deposits may result from the low Ca + Mg contents and high Al/(Na+K+Ca) in the igneous rocks, in turn reflecting the sources and evolution of the magmas.

2 ALL ABSTRACTS — INCLUDING SYMPOSIA ABSTRACTS — MUST be categorized into ONLY ONE of the 34 disciplines below. Do not add to the list. Choose the ONE discipline in which peer reviewers would be best qualified to evaluate your abstract. This does not necessarily determine the final technical session assigned.

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- ☐ 9 geomorphology
- ☐ 10 geophysics
- ☐ 11 geoscience information
- ☐ 12 glacial geology
- ☐ 13 history of geology
- ☐ 14 hydrogeology
- ☐ 15 marine geology
- ☐ 16 mathematical geology
- ☐ 17 micropaleontology
- ☐ 18 mineralogy/crystallography
- ☐ 19 oceanography
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- ☐ 24 petrology, metamorphic
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2 ☐ GSA Student Assoc.
3 ☐ Professional geologist but not GSA member
4 ☐ Student (not GSA Assoc.)

Speaker's name Mark D. Barton
Address Dept. Earth & Space Sciences
Address UCLA
City/State/Zip Los Angeles, CA 90024
Country 825 1600
Office Telephone 213 206-6288
Home Telephone ( )
Dates we can reach you anytime

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Senator **Hecht**. I thank you.

Just one question. Carl, Bill Farr from Reno and Pete Kelley from Carson have been out talking to you, have they not, trying to work out, on my staff, your boundary lines?

Mr. **Baker**. They have talked with my brother, yes.

Senator **Hecht**. With your brother?

Mr. **Baker**. Yes, sir.

Senator **Hecht**. We have made every attempt to try and work out the different boundary lines, and your water rights, and everything.

Mr. **Baker**. Yes, and we certainly appreciate those efforts, but it is very difficult for us to go with the concept that hurts our neighbor.

Senator **Hecht**. I see.

Mr. **Baker**. This will have a major impact on the Gondors, and we just cannot go along with something that really hurts the people we live and deal with every day and that are good friends.

Senator **Hecht**. I appreciate that, and thank you very much. Thank all of you for coming to Washington to testify.

Let us go right on now. Dr. Robert Starr Waite; Mr. Darwin Lambert; Mr. George Lea; Mr. Charles Callison; and Robert Jacobsen.

Dr. **Waite**. Senator?

Senator **Hecht**. Yes.

Dr. **Waite**. Could I request that Ann bring in the topographic relief map of Nevada?

Senator **Hecht**. Of course. I have not seen you since Ely, right?

Dr. **Waite**. Yes. It is great to see you again.

Senator **Hecht**. Thank you very much.

Dr. Waite. Tell me, are you feeling better since then?

Dr. **Waite**. Why, I am feeling great.

Senator **Hecht**. You remember you kind of scared us a little bit that day.

Dr. **Waite**. I was so excited by your hearings that, you know, I became overcome with emotion.

Senator **Hecht**. OK, please start in.

STATEMENT OF DR. ROBERT STARR WAITE, UNIVERSITY OF UTAH, SALT LAKE CITY, UT

Dr. **Waite**. OK, I have tried to bring something to you today that will tell you the Great Basin story over the past 62 years. This is easily a world record for National Parks.

What I have done here is I have given you about seven different items, and perhaps I could have—maybe I will just hold these up for you. This first one that I have for you, this is the color version right here, it was done 25 years ago when they were trying to create a park in Nevada. This is worth its weight in gold. I keep this in the family vault.

Anyway, here is the story of the Great Basin. I have updated it now to 1968, the current year with another document. The one I am going to read from is called "Proposed Great Basin National Park," and I will be using this one. I have also included one that is "Great Basin Science." I have gone in here to the master plan for a

Great Basin National Park, plus geology, climatology, history, archeology, botony, zoology, the Great Basin and Science.

My doctoral dissertation has been claimed as junk, but if it is junk then the University of California is junk, and the 25 professors who read it are junk. So I might relate to Joe that he might look up where the Bergstrun is to prove that this is a glacier. He might look up the fact that permafrost is not tundra. And he might look up one or two other things where he has some errors.

Joe is a good friend, though. In fact, Joe has a quote in one of the Great Basin books that says up on Mount Washington, it says, is nature's art gallery to walk through the bristlecone forest.

I have also included the first hearings from Senator Reid which includes the story of the bristlecone pine, and also some other significant things, the history of the Park movement, and the value of the Great Basin National Park. Then I have also included a Silver Circle document here that would tie the whole recreational economy—this is going to President Reagan; this is in color. We have 156 versions of this from a school in Utah, but this would tie the whole Great Basin recreational economy to Ely and the Great Basin.

Quickly let me just run through some of the highlights of this. The Great Basin is big, and the Great Basin is impressive, and it is the only place like it in all of North America or South America. The thing that makes it so unique is it has over 300 mountain ranges—300. What we are asking for is one small section of one to tell the story of a region the size of France.

The Southern Snake range has a lot of attractions, and you have heard of all of this. I have listed these below here, but basically the range is divided up into six sections. This is part of a 150-mile mountain belt that runs along the Utah-Nevada State line. We are asking for a little tiny whimpering area to tell the Great Basin story.

I have listed one thing in here. I have listed under the Wheeler Peak area, of these six major mountain peaks, I have listed that the bristlecone is 5,125 years old. When they cut the tree in 1964, which should never have been cut, they counted 4,900 rings. But what people do not realize is that every 100 years it is either too dry or too cold and bristlecone pine will not add a ring. So this tree is easily well over 5,000 years old, and the oldest one in the Great Basin. Of course there are other ranges——

Senator HECHT. I will have to ask you to summarize. Your 5 minutes is up.

Dr. WAITE. OK. I talk about bristlecone on the next page. I should think it should have a National Park home. I think it should belong to the World Heritage Foundation of outstanding natural features.

On page 3, a world record. The dissertation I wrote, if anyone wants a copy, 52 copies are being printed. If anybody wants a copy of the $80,000, $60,000 study the Park Service did, I have these. If you want to see what the Great Basin really is like, I brought over 500 slides. If anybody would like to look at just one, this will tell the Great Basin story.

Finally, I might say that there is a beautiful network of roads here. There are six beautiful campgrounds of table water, cooking facilities, restrooms, and I think we should name the visitor's center the Laxalt Visitor's Center. We could have a Hecht Great Basin Scientific Center. We could have a Vucanovich Bristlecone Pine study area. We could have a Mount Reid at 11,800 feet. I tell you, there is room for everybody here. [Laughter.]

Senator HECHT. I have to stop you. That is enough. But I thank you for your kind consideration, Doctor, but we have to go right on.

Dr. WAITE. Could I just add one thing?

Senator HECHT. Sure.

Dr. WAITE. I think I have got two factors here—I think No. 5 where I say "park size," and I want to read this. I think this is the most important factor: Whether a park is 44,000 acres or 129,500 acres, the size is unimportant. The story the park has to tell, and not its area, shape, or size, is the most important thing.

Examples of some of our smaller parks such as Hot Springs, 5 million visitors a year; Virgin Islands, over 700,000; Haleakala, over a million; Wind Cave, half a million; Bryce Canyon now approaching 800,000; Carlsbad Caverns, 700,000; Mamouth Cave, over a million. These are all smaller, you see, and they have great potential.

Senator HECHT. This is not fair to the other people who have also come a long way, so I am going to have to cut you off, Doctor, but I thank you very much.

Dr. WAITE. Could I just say, thank you, Senator Hecht, and I would take the 44,000 acres and run with it. If we do not get a park this year, we will not get it, and we are going to lose another $100 million in the State of Nevada.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

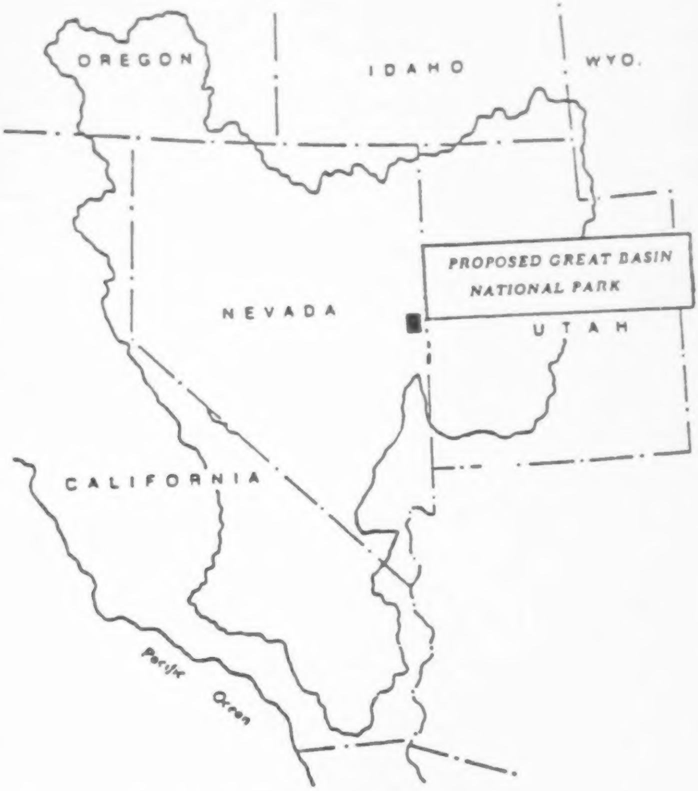
Dr. WAITE. And I appreciate the consideration of coming into Washington and attending this conference, and let us get a Great Basin National Park in 1986.

[The material submitted by Dr. Waite follows:]

PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

THE STORY OF SIX STATES

AMERICA'S FIRST REGIONAL NATIONAL PARK

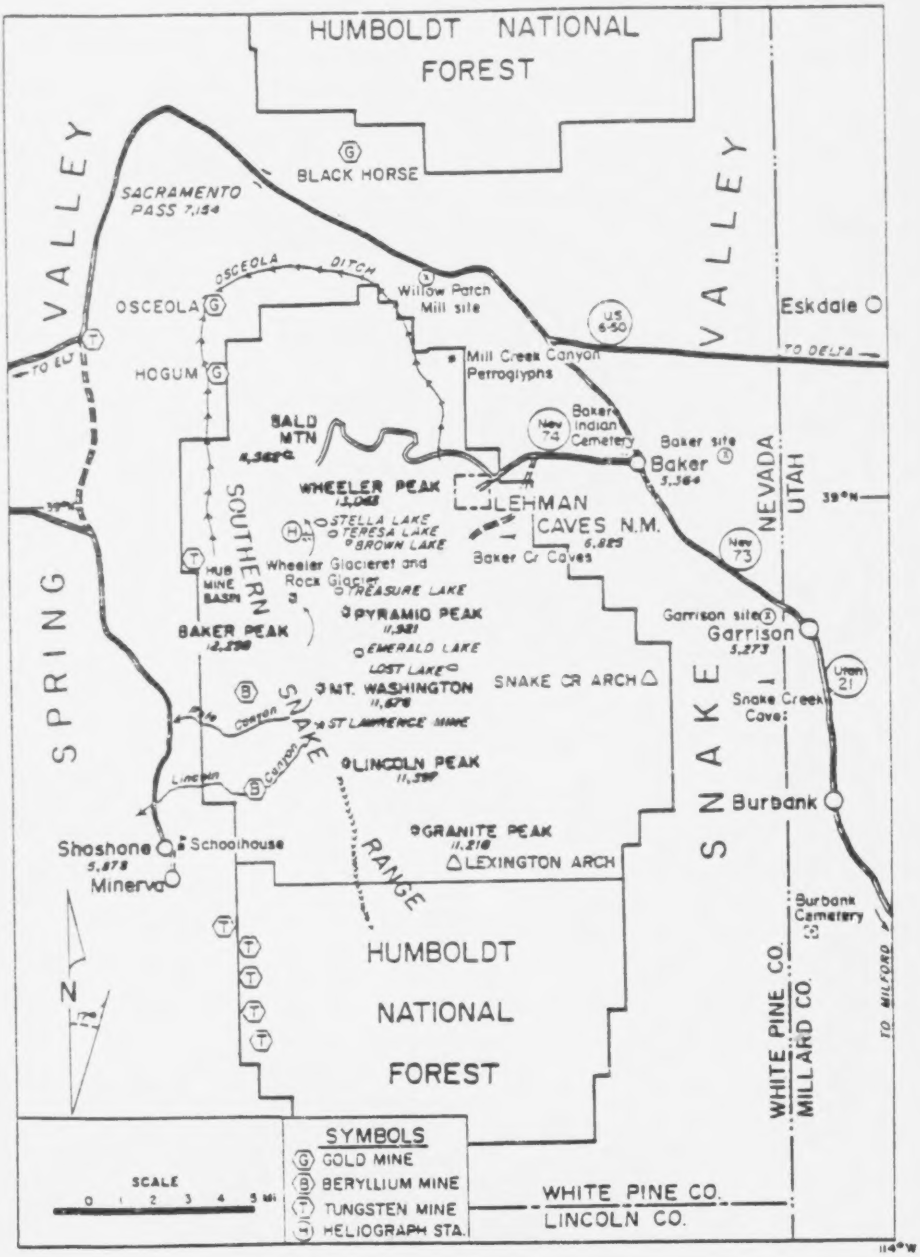

OREGON
IDAHO
WYO.
PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK
NEVADA
UTAH
CALIFORNIA
Pacific Ocean

DR. ROBERT STARR WAITE
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

SENATOR PAUL LAXALT - SENATOR CHIC HECHT
SENATE HEARINGS - SENATE BILL 2506
WASHINGTON, D. C.
JULY 18, 1986

PROPOSED

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK


HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST
BLACK HORSE
SACRAMENTO PASS 7,154
OSCEOLA DITCH
Willow Patch Mill site
OSCEOLA
HOGUM
TO ELY
US 6-50
TO DELTA
Eskdale
Mill Creek Canyon Petroglyphs
BALD MTN
WHEELER PEAK 13,063
Baker Indian Cemetery
Nev 74
Baker site
Baker 5,364
LEHMAN CAVES N.M. 6,825
Baker Cr Caves
STELLA LAKE
TERESA LAKE
BROWN LAKE
Wheeler Glacieret and Rock Glacier
TREASURE LAKE
HUB MINE BASIN
SOUTHERN SNAKE RANGE
BAKER PEAK 12,298
PYRAMID PEAK 11,921
EMERALD LAKE
LOST LAKE
MT. WASHINGTON 11,676
ST LAWRENCE MINE
SNAKE CR ARCH
LINCOLN PEAK 11,597
GRANITE PEAK 11,218
LEXINGTON ARCH
Pole Canyon
Lincoln Canyon
Shoshone 5,878
Schoolhouse
Minerva
SPRING VALLEY
SNAKE VALLEY
39°
39°N
NEVADA
UTAH
Nev 73
Garrison site
Garrison 5,273
Utah 21
Snake Creek Cave
Burbank
Burbank Cemetery
TO MILFORD
WHITE PINE CO.
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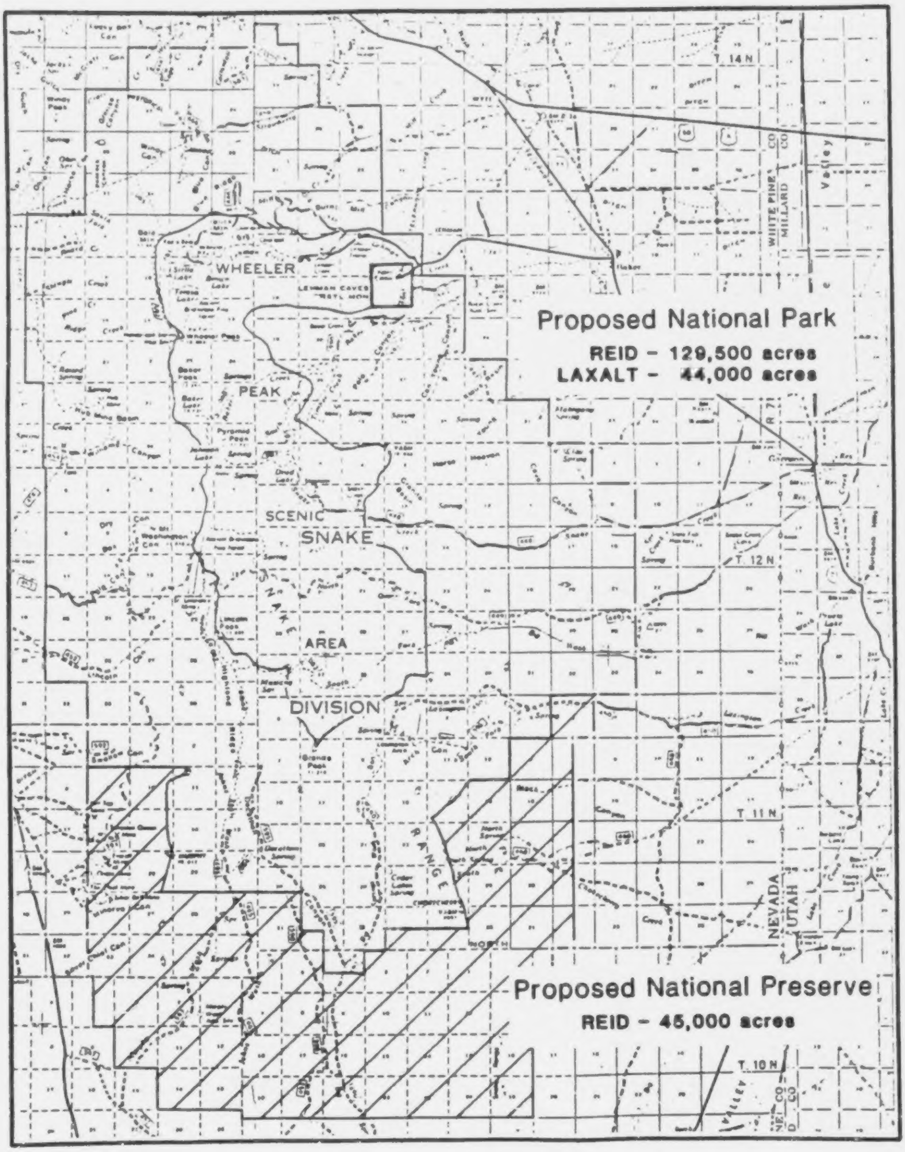
G GOLD MINE
B BERYLLIUM MINE
T TUNGSTEN MINE
H HELIOGRAPH STA.
114°W

The Southern Snake Range, Nevada

PROPOSED
GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK


WHEELER
LEHMAN CAVES NAT'L MON
PEAK
SCENIC
SNAKE
SNAKE
AREA
DIVISION
RANGE
T 14 N
T 12 N
T 11 N
T 10 N
WHITE PINE CO
MILLARD CO
NEVADA
UTAH
Valley
Proposed National Park
REID - 129,500 acres
LAXALT - 44,000 acres
Proposed National Preserve
REID - 45,000 acres

GREAT BASIN

AMERICA'S FIRST REGIONAL NATIONAL PARK

THE LAND

THE REGION / THE MOUNTAIN / UNIQUE LANDSCAPE FEATURES

I. GREAT BASIN - Larger than France (200,000 square miles), and largest region of interior drainage in the Western Hemisphere, this region is unique among the dry lands of the world - comparable only in size to the Turkestan Desert in Asia and Lake Eyre Basin in Australia. Although discovered by Escalante (1776), crossed by Smith (1827), named by Fremont (1844), and mapped by Wheeler (1869), over 100 years ago, the Great Basin is still largely unknown and little understood by most Americans. One of its most distinctive features are the 300 'sky island' ranges that form this mountainous desert, with variations of climate, flora, fauna, soils and water resources comparable to a trip from the desert basins to the Arctic icecap. Because of the region's landscape homogenity, the 13,000-foot Snake Range would make an ideal regional national park.

II. SOUTHERN SNAKE RANGE - Divided into six sections, the proposed park would contain a variety of spectacular features. Rugged (1) Wheeler Peak, culminating point of the highest mountain system in Nevada, has four unique qualities: the (a) Wheeler Glacier, cradled in a bowl shaped cirque, 2,000 feet below the peak; (b) Wheeler Rock Glacier, a one-half mile of shattered quartzite bedrock moving down the cirque floor; (c) Wheeler Peak Bristlecone Pine Stand, where the world's oldest living tree was dated at 5,125 years in 1964, and (d) Lehman Caves near the lower, eastern slope of the peak, considered to be the most beautiful caverns west of the Continental Divide. Beyond are five other distinctive sections: (2) Bald Mountain, ideally situated near Sacramento Pass for a future ski development; (3) Baker Peak, overlooking Pyramid Peak and beautiful Treasure Lake, one of six Ice Age Lakes on the range; (4) Mt. Washington, composed of 2,000 feet of snow-white limestone, with the largest stand of bristlecone pine, and an overview of Big Wash, sheltering a primeval stand of ponderosa pine on the canyon floor; (5) Lincoln Peak composed of multi-colored shales, and harboring the last of 20 glacial cirques lining the eastern flank of the range, with magnificent Lincoln Canyon and Acropolis Peak on the west; and (6) Granite Peak, overlooking Lexington Creek Canyon and Lexington Arch, the world's largest limestone arch, composed of 600 million year-old

Cambrian rock, capable of spanning a six story building. Beyond are Spring and Snake valleys where pioneer dwellings still stand, with windmills, cabins, split-rail fences, cemeteries and other pioneer paraphernalia dating back to the 1860's. Farther back in time are the remains of three prehistoric Indian civilizations: the (1) Desert Archaic Culture (8,000 B.C.-400 A.D.), migrants from Asia who enjoyed the fresh waters of ancient Lake Bonneville 10,000 years ago; (2) Fremont Culture (400 B.C.-1200 A.D.), farming people from the Four Corners Area, who planted corn along Snake Range streams, and (3) Shoshone (Snake) Indians (1200 A.D.-Present), who had established settlements at Baker and Garrison when the first European settlers arrived.

III. **BRISTLECONE PINE AND SCENIC DIVERSITY** - The compage of geographic features on this mountain system is truly amazing. Whether one is interested in marble caves, limestone arches, Lake Bonneville trout, prehistoric Indian civilizations, ice and rock glaciers, a ghost town or heliograph station, they are all here. Most noteworthy, however, are the ancient 5,000 year-old bristlecone pine (*Pinus longaeva*) that have outlived all other life forms. Originating in Alaska 30 million years ago, the trees now live between 10,000 and 11,200 feet in three large timberline stands: at (1) Wheeler Peak, (2) Bristlecone Peak, (3) Mt. Washington, where a ghost forest of dead bristlecone still stands that once lived 300 feet higher during the Altithermal Period (5,000-2,500 B.C.), when the climate was warmer. Here the cold, dry, rocky timberline conditions, combined with the hard, dense wood, thick bark and long needle retention, foster this great longevity. Native only to Western America, the oldest trees occur on the Snake Range. The dead wood, possibly 10,000 years old has revolutionized the Science of Dendrochronology by improving the Carbon 14 system of dating, and recorded environmental conditions since the last Ice Age. Because of the scenic and scientific values of the ancient Bristlecone pine they need to be protected against fire, theft and vandalism, and placed on the World Heritage Foundation list of outstanding natural features - a worthy honor for a tree that deserves international recognition - a tree that symbolizes the Great Basin, where the oldest forms still survive today. In terms of scientific value, the bristlecone pine has assisted: (1) Climatology by dating maps back to 1600 A.D., (2) Geology by dating earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions and glacial features, (3) Hydrology by analyzing past stream and lake fluctuations, (4) Archaeology by reconstructing compleation dates of prehistoric structures, and (5) History by providing dates for important historical events.

THE PEOPLE

TIME / PROFESSIONAL STUDIES / TOURIST FACILITIES / HISTORICAL LAND USE / PARK SIZE / MARKET AREAS

I. WORLD RECORD - For 62 years, political leaders, educators, conservationists, humanitarians, and Mr. and Mrs. America, have been striving to establish a national park in the Great Basin. Surveys, bills, magazine stories and newspaper articles have come out in the affirmative for a Great Basin National Park. Today 84 percent of Nevadans want a park. The work has been done. Any more studies would be redundant. A time record has been set for both America and possibly the world. Each year that passes more tourist dollars are lost for Nevada and the other Great Basin states.

II. PROFESSIONAL STUDIES - Scientific studies ranging from a 1,000 page Doctoral Dissertation, The Proposed Great Basin National Park: A Geographical Interpretation of the Southern Snake Range, Nevada, University of California (1974), $60,000 Government Survey, Great Basin Studies, U.S. Department of the Interior (1980), Great Basin National Park Economic Study, University of Nevada (1960), Timberline Ancients, a story of the world's oldest living trees (1972), and a multitude of over 800 references on the Great Basin and Snake Range, stress the importance of establishing a national park.

III. TOURIST FACILITIES AND VISITOR CENTER - Two transcontinental highways: (1) U.S. 6-50 - Washington, D.C. to San Francisco, and (2) U.S. 93 - Alaska to Panama, intersect near Wheeler Peak. In the proposed park, a network of roads and trails provide easy access to the scenic and cultural points of interest. Six fully developed campgrounds with tables, water, cooking facilities and rest rooms are available for visitors: (1) Lower Lehman Creek, (2) Upper Lehman Creek, (3) Wheeler Peak, (4) Baker Creek, (5) Shoshone, and (6) Snake Creek - as well as a modern Visitor Center, complete with museum, auditorium, cafeteria and National Park Service offices. Staffing of the park would be by university students from across America through the VIP (Volunteers in Parks) and SCA (Student Conservation Aid) programs, providing a relatively inexpensive park operation.

IV. COMPATIBLE LAND USES - A national park can be compatible with other land uses. Grazing can be allowed for the lifetime of the permit holders and their heirs. The 571 beef cattle and 2,437 sheep can be grazed on land both inside and adjacent to the park. Commercial mining is nonexistant, and all potential claims can be left outside the park boundaries. The historic gold mining areas of Osceola and Hogum, and historic tungsten mining areas on Highland Ridge, would be unaffected. Oil and natural gas are not present. Hunting can be maintained on the Northern Snake Range and Highland Ridge, with the late season hunt in December or January south of the park boundary. Forestry like mining, has now become history. There is presently no commercial timber industry on the Snake Range. Private land ownership will continue in perpetuity. Since the amount of such land is small, private ownership would cause no problem to either the administration or function of the park. Fishing and water use are unaffected.

V. **PARK SIZE** - Whether a park is 44,000 acres or 129,500 acres, the size is unimportant. The story the park has to tell, and not its area, shape or size, is the most important factor. Examples of some of America's most popular smaller national parks illustrate this point:

(1) Hot Springs (Arkansas) 5,765 acres / 5,236,000 visitors
(2) Virgin Islands (Caribbean) 14,470 acres / 699,000 visitors
(3) Haleakala (Hawaii) 27,824 acres / 1,194,000 visitors
(4) Wind Cave (South Dakota) 28,060 acres / 477,000 visitors
(5) Bryce Canyon (Utah) 36,010 acres / 737,000 visitors
(6) Acadia (Maine) 36,981 acres / 3,745,000 visitors
(7) Carlsbad Caverns (New Mexico) 46,755 acres / 732,000 visitors
(8) Mammoth Cave (Kentucky) 51,311 acres / 1,507,000 visitors

VI. **MARKET AREAS** - Surrounding market areas and cross-country travelers would supply the new national park with its clientel. South is **(1)** Las Vegas and Lake Mead (3,5000,000) visitors, supported by Los Angeles and the large Southern California Market Area. West is **(2)** Reno and Lake Tahoe, supported by San Francisco and the important Northern California Market Area. Only a relatively short distance away are **(3)** Zion (1,700.000) and Bryce Canyon (737,000) national parks, geared to provide a natural travel flow from Delta to Ely, by way of the potential westward extension of Interstate 70 to Reno, for which $22 billion dollars is in reserve. Northeast is the **(4)** Wasatch Front (1,000,000 population) and gateway to the Atlantic Coast and Midwestern states. The new park would be the closest land use designation of this type to Salt Lake City, Ogden and Provo - infact, closer than any national park in Utah. The last area, the (5) Pacific Northwest, would supply visitors by of Boise and Twin Falls.

THE NEED FOR A GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

NEED FOR LANDSCAPE INTERPRETATION / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / UNITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

I. NEED FOR LANDSCAPE INTERPRETATION

1. Need to add the Great Basin landscape type to the present national park system.
2. Need to make Nevada a national park state, for the protection and interpretation of the Great Basin landscape.
3. Need to organize a Great Basin National Park Association to attract visitors of all ages from world-wide population centers.
4. Need to provide the ancient bristlecone pine with national park status and a listing in the World Organization of Outstanding Natural Features.
5. Need to make Ely the hub of the Silver Circle, providing an introduction to the wide variety of Great Basin recreational attractions.
6. Need to make Ely a center for Great Basin studies based upon research and related environmental studies.
7. Need to introduce America to Nevada's outdoor attractions such as state parks, wildlife refuges, historical sites and wilderness areas.

II. NEED FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Provide Nevada with a permanent economic mainstay - a Great Basin National Park - destined to grow in importance with each succeeding year.
2. Reverse the population decline in Ely and eastern Nevada, with the stimulus of a new economic activity.
3. Provide Nevada and Ely with thousands of dollars of free advertising through the travel industry such as tourist agencies, transportation companies and related industries.
4. Complete the missing link in the chain of national parks across America.

5. Extend I-70 across central Nevada to Reno, connecting Ely with the Interstate Freeway System, for which $22 billion dollars has been set aside for the project.

III. UNITY OF DEVELOPMENT - Differences of opinions need to be resolved carefully. One must think through a problem logically and then do the thing that will benefit the greatest number of people. If a national park will give Nevada a new image and a stronger economy, and provide 250 million Americans with a better way of life - then a national park is a logical solution. Mt. Washington and Lincoln Peak, named for our two greatest presidents, are part of the Great Basin story. Perhaps this is an omen of greatness for the future of Nevada's highest mountain as America's newest national park.

CONCLUSION

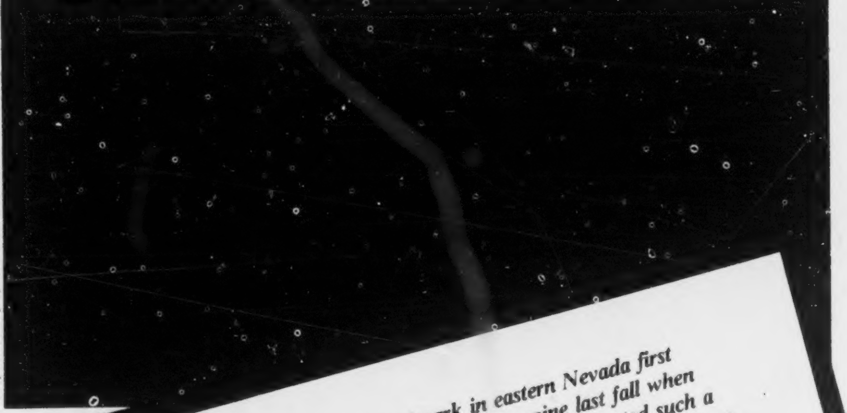
Tourism is a stable and growing industry, that will greatly be inhanced by the creation of a Great Basin National Park. With 250,000 to 500,000 new visitors annually, $30 million dollars could be added to Nevada's economy. Approximately $250,000,000 dollars have been lost through tourism alone since Senators Alan Bible and Howard Cannon passed the first Great Basin National Park Bill through the Senate in 1962. Since 1924, when Senator Key Pittman proceeded with the first park legislation, the loss in tourist dollars to Nevada has been well over $500,000,000 dollars. Education, recreation, leisure, food, lodging, hiking, camping, photography and exploring are all part of the national park scene. Over one-half of the states rank tourism as their leading industry, most of which have national parks. If 84 percent of the state's people favor the establishment of a park, perhaps it is time to let America know there is a picturesque outdoor Nevada. Let's share 'the secret,' make Wheeler Peak a park. As one visitor appropriately stated:

> "If Wheeler Peak and the contiguous alpine area had been located in any other part of America, it would have become a national park many years ago."

GREAT BASIN

THE STORY BEHIND THE SCENERY

Is It Time To Create NEVADA'S FIRST NATIONAL PARK?



Acropolis Peak, proposed Great Basin National Park, Nevada

The notion of creating a national park in eastern Nevada first came to the attention of Mountainwest Magazine last fall when Dr. Robert Starr Waite of Weber State College presented such a proposal to the Utah Academy of Science. In the last 50 years, we have learned—in 1924 and 1955—such proposals have surfaced.

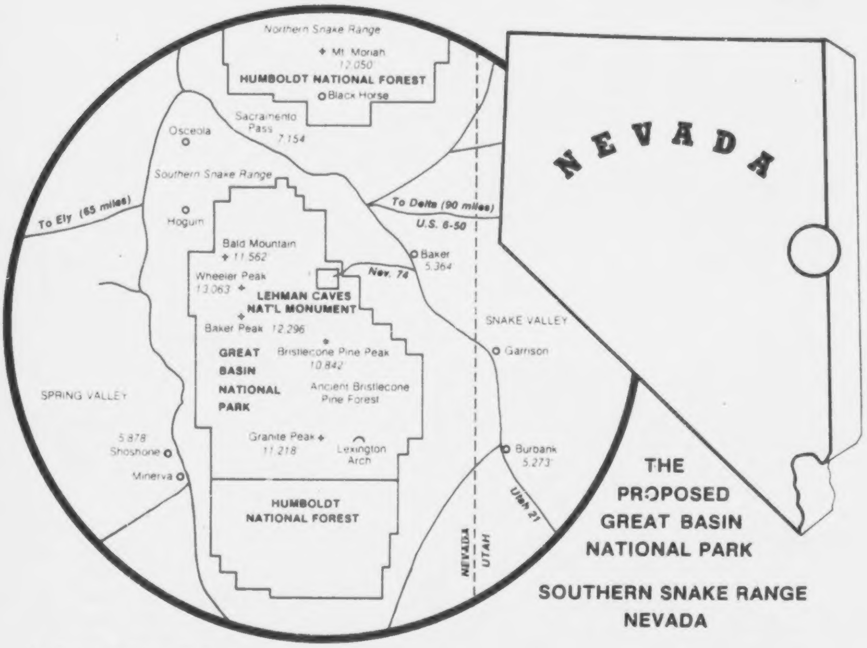
Dr. Waite's proposal is backed by scientific research and his conclusions are persuasive. Accordingly, the editors requested Dr. Waite to present, in article form, what his national park would look like. It is similar to, and different from, the two earlier proposals.

One thing that is different is the social and economic background in which it is proposed. Our view of things is far different now than in 1924; indeed, 1955 may have been, from a social, economic, and environmental perspective, closer to 1924 than 1978.

Is the Great Basin National Park an idea whose time has come? We hope the following pages, backed by two volumes of data, will act as a catalyst for a new dialogue.

-- the Editors

Is It Time To Create NEVADA'S FIRST NATIONAL PARK?


Northern Snake Range
Mt. Moriah 12,050'
HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST
Black Horse
Sacramento Pass 7,154'
Osceola
Southern Snake Range
To Ely (65 miles)
Hogum
To Delta (90 miles)
U.S. 6-50
Bald Mountain 11,562'
Baker 5,364'
Wheeler Peak 13,063'
Nev. 74
LEHMAN CAVES NAT'L MONUMENT
Baker Peak 12,296'
SNAKE VALLEY
GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK
Bristlecone Pine Peak 10,842'
Garrison
Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest
SPRING VALLEY
5,878' Shoshone
Granite Peak 11,218'
Lexington Arch
Burbank 5,273'
Minerva
HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST
Utah 21
NEVADA
UTAH
NEVADA
THE PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK
SOUTHERN SNAKE RANGE NEVADA

by Robert S. Waite, Ph.D.

The national park system is of great pride to America. Its purpose is to interpret the physical and cultural landscape of our country for the recreational and educational enjoyment of the nation's 220 million people. At the present time, however, there are several regions not included in this system. One is the 200,000 square mile area known as the Great Basin—that extensive zone of interior drainage located between the Wasatch Mountains and the Sierra Nevada.

We need a national park in this area, a park to interpret the region's peculiar physical and cultural landscape. There is a central location in the Basin from which this can be accomplished. It is the 13,000-foot Snake Range in eastern Nevada. Because of the varied geographical values present on the Snake Range, it would make an outstanding national park, serving to interpret one of the most unique, but least appreciated, regions in the United States.

The creation of a national park is not done lightly. Indeed, many areas are first given national monument status before finally being elevated to the distinguished status of national park. In our area, this has been the case with Zion, Capitol Reef, and Arches, among others. This permits an area to be recognized over time for the nature of its geological and cultural contributions.

Such recognition has already come to this area in the form of Lehman

> ***"We need a national park in this area, a park to interpret the region's peculiar physical and cultural landscape."***

Is It Time To Create NEVADA'S FIRST NATIONAL PARK?

The road to Wheeler Peak Cirque area.

Camping area, Wheeler Peak Cirque in the distance.

Aerial view of Wheeler Peak Cirque and glacierette.

"*The economic return to the area from this park would exceed $10 million annually.*"

Caves National Monument (including Wheeler Peak), the anchor of this proposed park. But that is not the whole story. There are many other considerations that recommend this site for national park status. All told, 11 points argue strongly for such recognition:

1. Lehman Caves, 2. Wheeler Peak (13,063 ft.), 3. the Wheeler Glacierette, 4. Wheeler Rock Glacier, 5. Lexington Arch, 6. stands of 5,000-year-old bristlecone pine, 7. the world's largest mountain mahogany, 8. prehistoric Fremont Indian villages, 9. the historic gold mining town of Osceola, 10. Wheeler Peak Heliograph Station, 11. Cirque lakes.

As national parks go, this would be a small park. The length is approximately 23 miles; width 10 miles. It would conform to the present boundaries to the Humboldt National Forest which includes Lehman Caves National Monument. (It would exclude the Humboldt National Forest on the northern Snake Range.)

The economic aspects of this park are as attractive as its geological, biological, anthropological, and historical aspects. It is estimated that initially it would take only $4 million to bring it to full park status for 500,000 visitors annually.

The economic return to the area from this park would exceed $10 million annually.

The disadvantages are minimal, due to the fact that the proposed park

Is It Time To Create NEVADA'S FIRST NATIONAL PARK?

is already in a national forest. It is estimated that the loss of mining, grazing, lumbering, and hunting would be about $50,000 annually. Fishing and water use would be unaffected by the creation of the park.

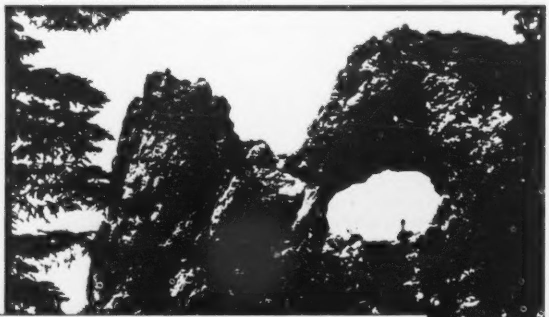
> *"This whole area of eastern Nevada/western Utah is probably more in need of an economic boost than any region in the West."*

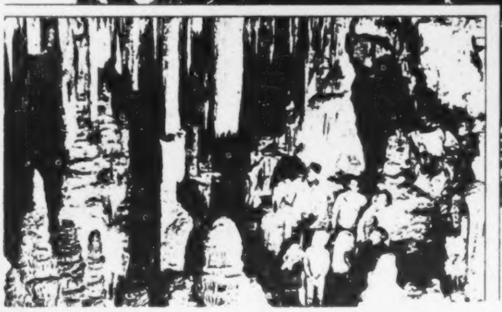
The park should have a visitor's center and museum, roadside and trailside exhibits, ranger-guided and self-guided nature walks, wildflower gardens, a park library, alpine research station, a Wheeler Peak lodge, a Lehman Caves inn, two mountain chalets, several picnic areas, and new automobile and hiker campgrounds. (Presently within the national monument are a visitor's center, restaurant, souvenir shop, picnic areas, and campgrounds in the national forest.)

The park itself would be adjacent to one of the major east-west transcontinental highways, U. S. 6-50, and a major north-south highway, U. S. 93. Consequently, the accessibility aspects are excellent.

The two population hubs would be Ely, Nevada, on the west and Delta, Utah, on the east. This whole area of eastern Nevada/western Utah is probably more in need of an economic boost than any region in the West. Thus both Nevada and Utah would benefit economically from the creation of the Great Basin National Park.

Lexington Arch (note man standing inside)





Lehman Caves National Monument

A brief word about some of this proposed park's features.

Lehman Caves. Formed in the Pole Canyon limestone, this series of solution caverns represents one of the most beautiful cave systems in the West.

Located at an elevation of 6,825 feet above the confluence of Lehman and Baker creeks, on the eastern side of the Snake Range, the caves were, because of their beauty and scientific interest, preserved as a national monument in 1921.

Wheeler Peak (13,063'). The Snake Range is a typical lifted and tilted fault-block mountain range. Here 14,000 feet of strata are exposed, comparable in age to the rocks in the Grand Canyon. The culminating point of this massive mountain uplift is Wheeler Peak (13,063'), the most conspicuous landmark in eastern Nevada.

Wheeler Glacierette. The Wheeler Glacierette is one of the most unusual natural attractions in the Great Basin. Located at the head of the Wheeler Peak cirque, it is a crescent-shaped body of ice at elevations between 11,300 and 11,600 feet. It is the only permanent body of ice in the region.

Wheeler Rock Glacier. One of the most unusual and interesting landforms in the Great Basin, the only one of its kind between the Sierra Nevada and southern Rocky Mountains, the glacier extends down the cirque floor one-half mile from the lower margin of the Wheeler Glacierette. It is 600 feet wide and has a vertical descent of 650 feet, with an average slope of 35 degrees. Composed of shattered bedrock derived from the weathered cirque walls, it moves down the slope under the

Cont. on pg. 38

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Cont. from pg. 18

force of gravity and possibly by the movement of the Wheeler Glacierette. The upper segment is underlain by ice that helps to move the rock mass. The upper portion benefits from the lubricating effect of the underlying ice during periods of summer melting.

Lexington Arch. The arch has a span of approximately 120 feet, with an opening 75 feet high, large enough to span a six-story building. It is the largest natural arch formed in Oriole limestone in the Great Basin. This is a unique feature because arches of this size are not traditionally known to occur in fault-block Great Basin ranges.

Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forests. The Snake Range is of special botanical interest because it contains the world's oldest known trees, ancient bristlecone pine (*Pinus longaeva*) with some trees exceeding 5,000 years in age. Some of these trees predate the California redwoods by 1,500 years.

World's Largest Mountain Mahogany. On the Snake Range the mountain mahogany attains a record size. In the deeper soils on the canyon floors, it attains heights of 20 to 30 feet, with trunks one and one-half feet or more in diameter. The world's largest known specimen is found in Lehman Creek Canyon at the upper Lehman Creek Campground. Its height is about 40 feet. Some mountain mahogany have a life span as long as 900 years.

Fremont Indian Villages. Two ancient Fremont Indian villages, representing primitive man's highest stage of development in the Great Basin, are located here. The prehistoric Indian villages are particularly interesting because they represent the most westerly known Fremont settlements, a culture that originated eastward on the Colorado Plateau in the vicinity of the Four Corners Area.

Osceola. Osceola, one of the most famous gold-producing towns in Nevada, is unique in that it was the largest gold mining center in White Pine County. Located in Grubstake Gulch at 6,800 feet, on the western side of the range, it is one of the most interesting of 250 ghost towns in the Great Basin. During its existence, it was the longest-lived placer town in the region; it produced the largest gold nugget found in Nevada, weighing approximately 25 pounds; contained a ride-in saloon, where a patron could ride a horse up to the bar, order his drink and never dismount; and is known for the historic Osceola Ditch, an ingenious scheme devised to carry water from both sides of the range to supply the hydraulic mining operations.

Wheeler Peak Heliograph Station (1881). In 1881, members of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey entered the Great Basin to conduct the first large-scale land survey of the region. In this work, prominent mountain peaks were used for survey stations, from which point triangulation measurements were made. These stations were located on prominent peaks extending from the southern Rocky Mountains to Mt. Shasta, California. On these selected mountain peaks, heliographs or heliotropes were established, which consisted of large mirrors mounted on tripods that worked on a swivel. The mirrors could be rotated to catch the sun's rays and reflect communication signals during the daylight hours.

Cirque Lakes. On the southern Snake Range are six attractive glacial lakes. Five of the lakes are situated in high cirque basins at elevations above 10,00 feet: Stella Lake, Teresa Lake and Brown Lake in upper Lehman Creek Canyon; and Baker and Johnson Lakes at the head of Baker Creek and Snake Creek Canyons. They are all formed in glacial cirques and impounded behind recessional morainal dams. The water is exceptionally clear, forming the home for rainbow and brook trout.

Finally, we must ask ourselves: Is there a need for a national park in the Great Basin?; and, Does the Snake Range qualify for national park status? If the answers to these two questions are Yes, then it is time to introduce the proper legislation to make the proposed Great Basin National Park a reality. ■

A PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK: AN EXAMPLE OF RECREATIONAL PLANNING AND LANDSCAPE INTERPRETATION

SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
1979

RECREATION GEOGRAPHY SESSION
VALLEY FORGE ROOM B
MONDAY - 23 APRIL 1979
8:30 a.m. - 10:10 a.m.

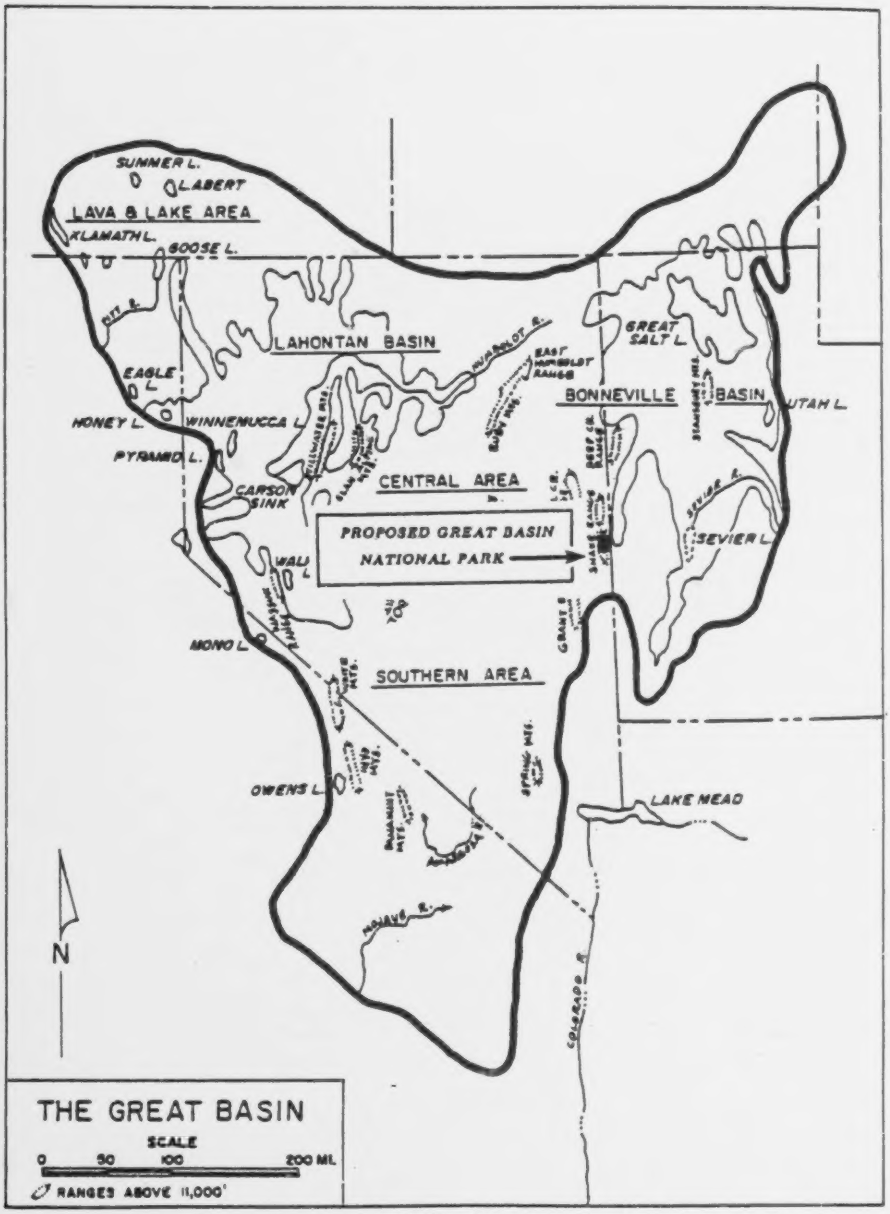
DR. ROBERT S. WAITE

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

SALT LAKE CITY
UTAH

A PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK: SOUTHERN SNAKE RANGE, NEVADA

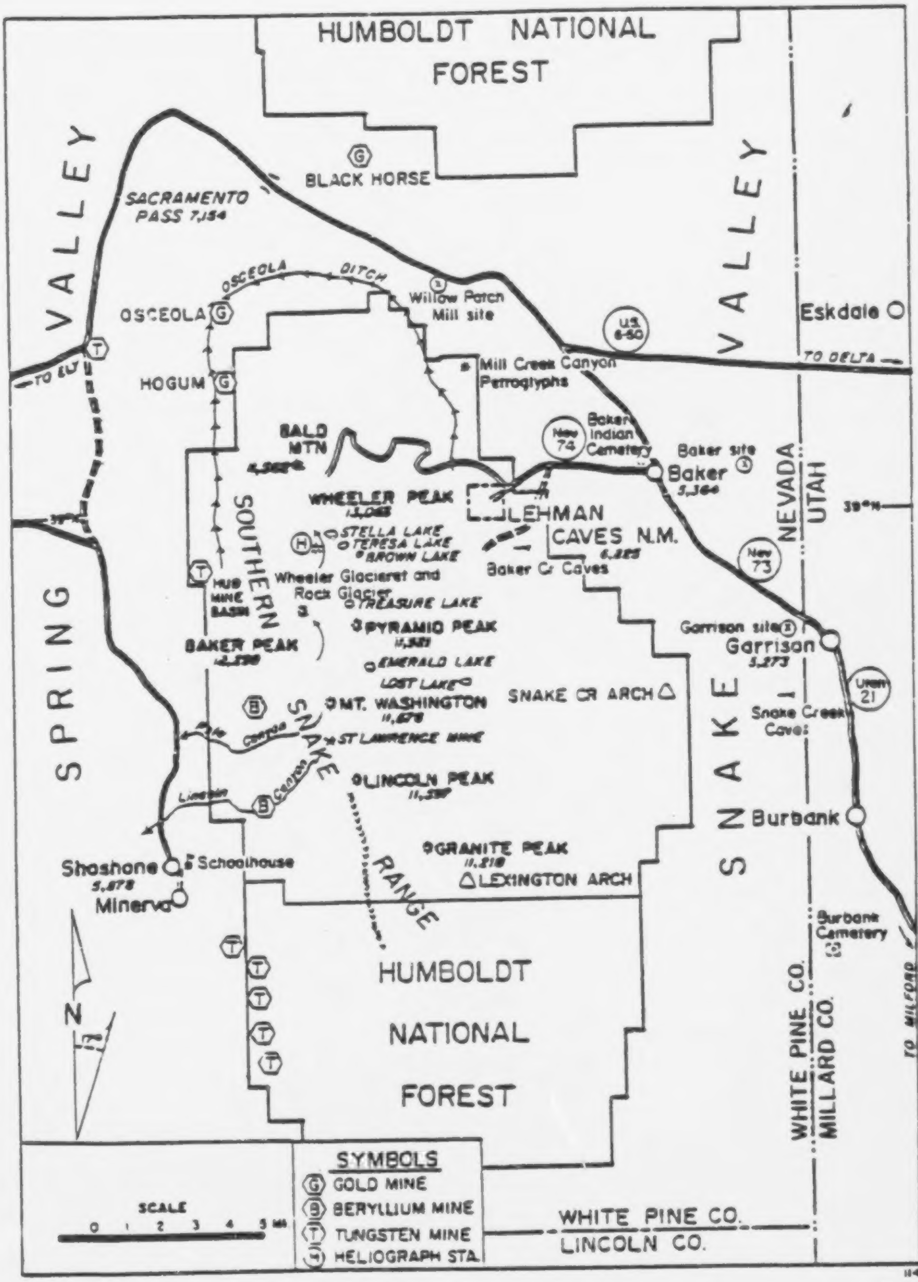
The purpose of the national park system is to interpret the physical and cultural landscape of the United States. At the present time there are several regions not included in this system, such as the 200,000 square mile Great Basin, the extensive zone of interior drainage located between the Sierra Nevada and Wasatch Mountains. In this paper a master plan is presented to develop the first national park in the Great Basin, which would serve to interpret the region's landscape from a central location — specifically the 13,000 foot Snake Range in eastern Nevada. In planning the new park, four aspects should be considered: (1) visitor accessibility, (2) accommodations and services, (3) park administration, and the (4) interpretative program. The latter phase would include the interpretation of the typical: (1) geological, (2) biological, (3) anthropological, and (4) historical values of the Great Basin, as well as unique Snake Range features, such as: the (1) Wheeler Glacieret, (2) Wheeler Rock Glacier, (3) Lexington Arch, (4) Lehman Caves, (5) 5,000 year old bristlecone pine, (6) world's largest mountain mahogany, (7) prehistoric Fremont Indian villages, (8) historic gold mining town of Osceola, and (9) Wheeler Peak Heliograph Station. Because of the varied geographical values present on the Snake Range it would make an outstanding national park, serving to interpret one of the most unique, but least appreciated regions in the United States.


SUMMER L.
LABERT
LAVA & LAKE AREA
KLAMATH L.
GOOSE L.
PITT R.
EAGLE L
HONEY L.
WINNEMUCCA L.
PYRAMID L.
LAHONTAN BASIN
HUMBOLDT R.
EAST HUMBOLDT RANGE
RUBY MTS.
STILLWATER MTS.
CARSON SINK
CENTRAL AREA
PROPOSED GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK
WALKER L
GREAT SALT L.
BONNEVILLE BASIN
UTAH L.
STANSBURY MTS.
DEEP CR. RANGE
SNAKE RANGE
SEVIER R.
SEVIER L.
GRANT R.
MONO L.
WHITE MTS.
SOUTHERN AREA
OWENS L.
SPRING MTS.
LAKE MEAD
PANAMINT MTS.
AMARGOSA R.
MOJAVE R.
COLORADO R.
N
THE GREAT BASIN
SCALE
0 50 100 200 MI.
RANGES ABOVE 11,000'

The five subregions of the Great Basin and the principal mountain ranges.

PROPOSED

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK


HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST
BLACK HORSE
SACRAMENTO PASS 7,154
OSCEOLA DITCH
Willow Patch Mill site
OSCEOLA
HOGUM
U.S. 6-50
TO ELY
TO DELTA
Eskdale
Mill Creek Canyon Petroglyphs
BALD MTN
WHEELER PEAK 13,063
New 74
Baker Indian Cemetery
Baker site
Baker 5,364
LEHMAN CAVES N.M. 6,825
Baker Cr Caves
39°N
STELLA LAKE
TERESA LAKE
BROWN LAKE
Wheeler Glacieret and Rock Glacier
TREASURE LAKE
PYRAMID PEAK
HUB MINE BASIN
SOUTHERN SNAKE RANGE
BAKER PEAK
EMERALD LAKE
LOST LAKE
MT. WASHINGTON 11,678
SNAKE CR ARCH
ST LAWRENCE MINE
LINCOLN PEAK
Lincoln Canyon
GRANITE PEAK 11,218
LEXINGTON ARCH
Shoshone 5,878
Schoolhouse
Minerva
New 73
Garrison site
Garrison 5,273
Utah 21
Snake Creek Cave
Burbank
Burbank Cemetery
TO MILFORD
NEVADA
UTAH
SPRING VALLEY
SNAKE VALLEY
WHITE PINE CO.
MILLARD CO.
LINCOLN CO.
N
SCALE
0 1 2 3 4 5 MI
SYMBOLS
G GOLD MINE
B BERYLLIUM MINE
T TUNGSTEN MINE
H HELIOGRAPH STA.
114°W

The Southern Snake Range, Nevada

INTRODUCTION

I. PURPOSE

A. To present the master plan for a proposed Great Basin National Park, to interpret the geological, biological, anthropological and historical values of the proposed park, and to show how these values can serve to interpret the Great Basin landscape.

II. SITE AND SITUATION

A. Southern Snake Range (Wheeler Peak - 13,063' - 39°N-112°W), White Pine County, eastern Nevada. Includes the present Wheeler Peak Scenic Area, Humboldt National Forest, and Lehman Caves National Monument (6,825').

B. Great Basin, a 200,000 square mile region located between the Sierra Nevada-Cascade Mountain, and Wasatch Mountain-High Plateau, rimlands, and the Great Sandy and Mojave deserts of southern Oregon and southern California.

III. PARK SIZE, SHAPE AND BOUNDARIES

A. Length 23 miles, width 10 miles, rectangular shape, conforming to the present Humboldt National Forest boundaries.

IV. COST TO DEVELOP

A. Initial cost approximately $4,000,000 to open the park for 500,000 visitors annually.

V. ADVANTAGES, DISADVANTAGES AND TENTATIVE SOLUTIONS

A. Advantages include the aesthetic, preservative, educational, scientific and recreational values, with an economic return exceeding $10,000,000 annually.

B. Disadvantages include the loss of mining, grazing, lumbering and hunting, representing a loss of approximately $50,000 annually. Fishing and water use would be unaffected by the creation of the park.

C. Tentative solutions to the multiple use losses include, protective mining, valley grazing utilizing ground water resources, timber cutting and hunting on the northern Snake Range and other vicinal mountain areas.

PARK PLANNING

I. ACCESSIBILITY

A. Federal and state highways, U.S. 6-50, U.S. 93, Nevada 73, and Utah 21.

B. Existing and proposed park roads, and entrance stations.

C. Existing and proposed park trails.

II. ACCOMMODATIONS AND SERVICES

A. Vicinal accommodations and services in Baker, Garrison, and nearby highway commercial establishments.

B. Proposed park facilities include: a Wheeler Peak Lodge and Lehman Creek Inn, two mountain chalets, several picnic areas, and new, automobile and hiker campgrounds.

III. INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

A. Visitor center and museum, park brochure, ranger lectures and campfire programs, roadside and trailside exhibits, ranger-guided and self-guided nature walks, wildflower gardens, park library, alpine research station, and other interpretative innovations.

IV. PARK ADMINISTRATION AND FACILITIES

A. Superintendent, assistant, park planner, chief ranger, chief naturalist, chief of maintenance, administrative officer, personnel officer, concessions officer, and associated staff members.

B. Administration buildings, housing for park personnel, trail shelters, storage and maintenance buildings, fire control facilities, livestock corrals and utilities, such as telephone, radio, power, sewage and water systems.

PARK INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

GEOLOGICAL VALUES

I. SEDIMENTATION AND STRATIGRAPHY

A. Origin and geological evolution of the Great Basin stratigraphy, with the associated fossil and mineral deposits characterizing each geological period.

II. TECTONIC LANDFORMS

A. Constructional processes, diastrophism (faulting and folding) and vulcanism (intrusive and extrusive), responsible for the basin and range topography.

III. GRADATIONAL LANDFORMS

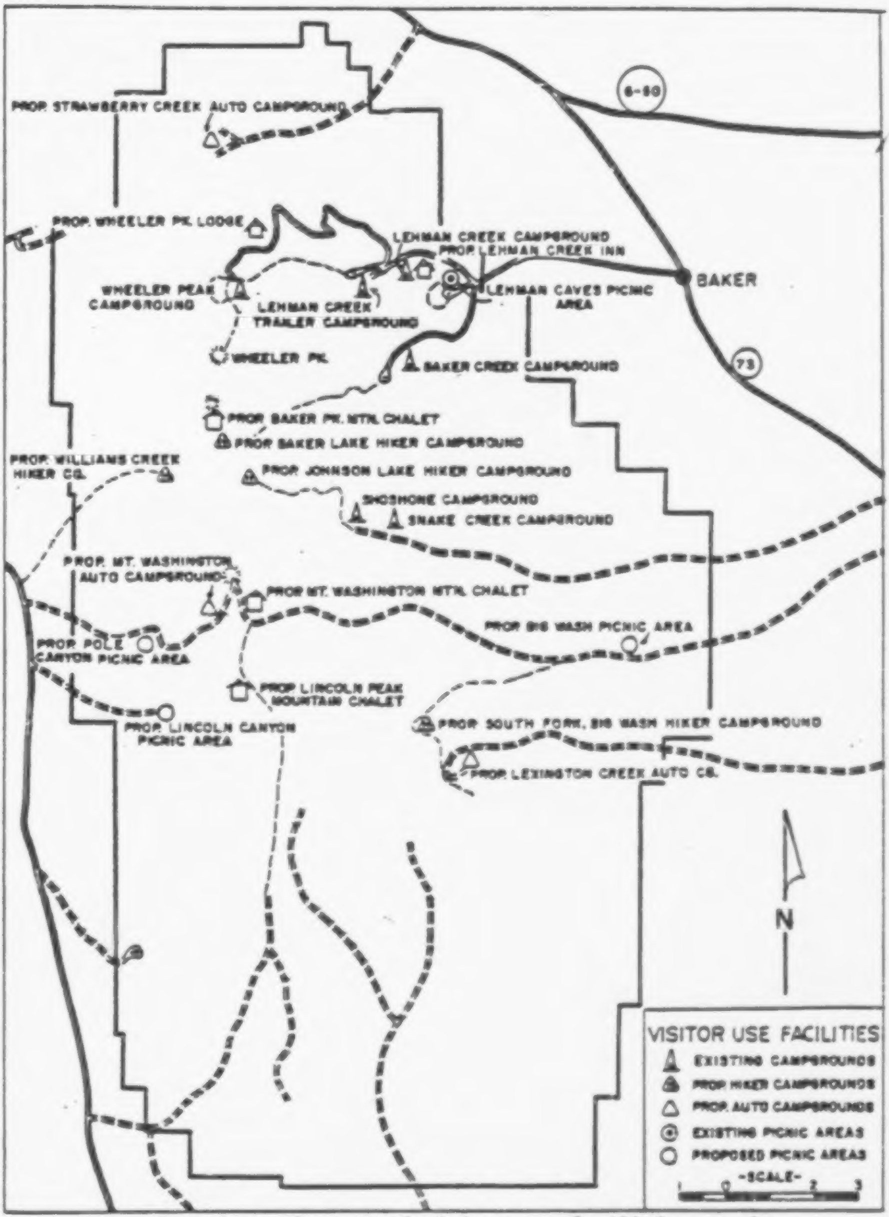
A. Landforms produced by weathering and mass wasting, exemplified by Lexington Arch, the Wheeler Rock Glacier, talus cones and soil creep.

B. Landforms produced by the five degradational and aggradational agents, running water, ground water, moving ice, waves and currents, and wind.

1. Fluvial Features (Permanent and intermittent streams)

   a. Stream-cut canyons, valleys and arroyos
   b. Alluvial fans, playas and salars

2. Solution Features (Ground water charged with carbonic acid and calcium carbonate)


PROP. STRAWBERRY CREEK AUTO CAMPGROUND
6-50
PROP. WHEELER PK. LODGE
LEHMAN CREEK CAMPGROUND
PROP. LEHMAN CREEK INN
WHEELER PEAK CAMPGROUND
LEHMAN CREEK TRAILER CAMPGROUND
LEHMAN CAVES PICNIC AREA
BAKER
WHEELER PK.
BAKER CREEK CAMPGROUND
73
PROP. BAKER PK. MTN. CHALET
PROP. BAKER LAKE HIKER CAMPGROUND
PROP. WILLIAMS CREEK HIKER CG.
PROP. JOHNSON LAKE HIKER CAMPGROUND
SHOSHONE CAMPGROUND
SNAKE CREEK CAMPGROUND
PROP. MT. WASHINGTON AUTO CAMPGROUND
PROP. MT. WASHINGTON MTN. CHALET
PROP. BIG WASH PICNIC AREA
PROP. POLE CANYON PICNIC AREA
PROP. LINCOLN PEAK MOUNTAIN CHALET
PROP. LINCOLN CANYON PICNIC AREA
PROP. SOUTH FORK, BIG WASH HIKER CAMPGROUND
PROP. LEXINGTON CREEK AUTO CG.
N
VISITOR USE FACILITIES
EXISTING CAMPGROUNDS
PROP. HIKER CAMPGROUNDS
PROP. AUTO CAMPGROUNDS
EXISTING PICNIC AREAS
PROPOSED PICNIC AREAS
-SCALE-
1 0 2 3

Existing and proposed visitor use facilities on the southern Snake Range.

  - a. Cave erosion in the soluble Pole Canyon limestone
  - b. Cave erosion, including dripstone (stalactites, stalagmites, helicitites, drapery and shields), flowstone and rimstone deposits

3. Glacial Features (Pleistocene and Recent epoch glaciation)

  - a. Cirques and U-shaped canyons (Wheeler Glacieret)
  - b. Terminal and recessional moraines, with associated tarns

4. Lacustrine Features (Ancient Lake Bonneville and Spring Valley Lake)

  - a. Relict wave-cut terraces and cliffs
  - b. Relict wave-built beaches, bars and spits

5. Aeolian Features (Wind erosion and deposition landforms)

  - a. Rock etching, deflation hollows and reg surfaces
  - b. Sand dunes and erg surfaces

IV. HYDROLOGY

A. Permanent and intermittent streams, their dendritic drainage pattern, headwater and terminal areas, discharge characteristics, variations in water quality, and interior drainage.

B. Mountain and basin lakes, their origin, physical characteristics, water supply and fluctuations.

C. Mountain and basin springs, major aquifers, patterns of subsurface flow, water recharge, water loss through subsurface leakage to the Great Salt Lake Desert, transpiration by phreatophytes, and surface evapotranspiration.

BIOLOGICAL VALUES

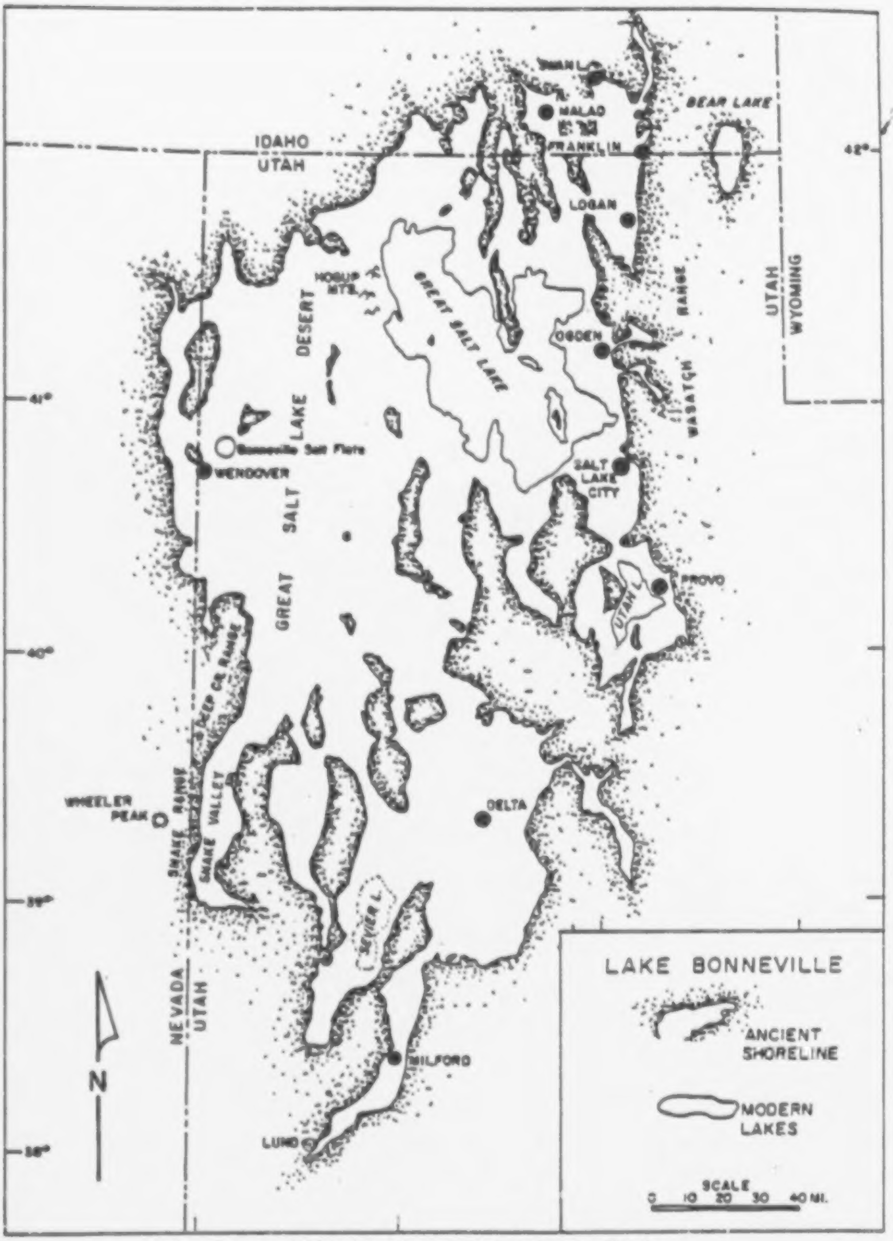
I. WEATHER AND CLIMATE

A. Vertical zonation of the B, D and E climates according to the Koppen classification, the associated temperature, precipitation, pressure and wind characteristics, and the climatic controls responsible for aridity in the Great Basin (Sierra Nevada rainshadow effect and North Pacific Subtropical High). A 1,000 foot increase in altitude is equivalent to a 300 mile increase in latitude.

1. Basin Climates (B - Dry Climates

  - a. Middle Latitude Desert (BWk) 5,000-6,500'
    (Basins and intermediate alluvial fans)
    - (1) Garrison (5,273') - July 78°F., January 28°F. - Precipitation 6.71 - (Average 4" -10" for basin areas).
  - b. Middle Latitude Steppe (BSk) 6,500-7,500'
    (Upper alluvial fans and lowest mountain slopes)
    - (1) Lehman Caves (6,825') - July 72°F., January 24°F. - Precipitati
      12.64" - (Average 11"-16" for foothill areas).

2. Intermediate Mountain Climates (D - Humid Microthermal Climates)


SWAN L.
MALAD
FRANKLIN
BEAR LAKE
IDAHO
UTAH
42°
LOGAN
HOGUP MTS.
GREAT SALT LAKE
DESERT
LAKE
SALT
GREAT
RANGE
UTAH
WYOMING
OGDEN
WASATCH
41°
Bonneville Salt Flats
WENDOVER
SALT LAKE CITY
PROVO
UTAH L.
40°
DEEP CR. RANGE
WHEELER PEAK
SNAKE RANGE
SNAKE VALLEY
DELTA
39°
SEVIER L.
NEVADA
UTAH
N
MILFORD
LUND
38°
LAKE BONNEVILLE
ANCIENT SHORELINE
MODERN LAKES
SCALE
0 10 20 30 40 MI.

Lake Bonneville in the eastern Great Basin.

a. Humid Continental Long Summer (Dfa) 7,500-8,500'
(Lower canyons and mountain slopes)
1. Temperature - July 68 F., January 20 F. - Precipitation 17"-20"

b. Humid Continental Short Summer (Dfb) 85,00-9,500'
(Intermediate conayous and mountain slopes)
1. Temperature - July 62 F., January 16 F. - Precipitation,21"-24"

c. Subarctic (Dfc) 9,500 - 11,000'
(Upper canyons and mountain slopes)
1. Temperature - July 54 F., January 16 F. - Precipitation 25"-30"

3. High Mountain Climates (E-Polar Climates)

a. Tundra (ET) 11,000-13,000'
(Highest ridges and peaks above timberline)
1. Temperature - July 45 F., January 0 F. - Precipitation 15"-25"

b. Icecap (EF) 11,300-11,600'
(Wheeler Glacieret)
1. Temperature July 30 F., January -15 F. - Precipitation 20"-25"

B. Contrasts between adret and ubac slopes, windward and leeward slopes, montane valleys and interfluves, and selected mountain microclimates.

C. Effect of the Anathermal (8,000-5,000 B.C.), Altithermal (5,000-2,500 B.C.), and Medithermal (2,500 B.C.-Present) climates on Great Basin plant and animal zonation in prehistoric time.

II. NATIVE VEGETATION

A. Northern Shrub Biome - plant communities in the arid basins, composed of varied shrubs, grasses, wildflowers, cacti and riparian vegetation.

1. Upper Sonoran Life Zone (Desert shrubs) (5,000-6,500') BWk

a. Samphire (*Salicornea europea*) - Iodine Bush (*Allenrolfea occidentalis*) playas
b. Shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*) - Greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*) - lower alluvial fans
c. Big Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) - Rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*)- intermediate alluvial fans

B. Coniferous Forest Biome - plant communities between the two timberlines, with associated shrubs, grasses, wildflowers and riparian vegetation.

1. Upper Sonoran Life Zone (Steppe Woodland) (6,500-7,500') BSk

a. Pinyon Pine (*Pinus monophylla*) - Utah Juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*) upper alluvial fans and lowest mountain slopes

2. Transition Life Zone (Submontane Forest) (7,500-8,500') Dfa

a. Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) - Mountain Mahogany (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*) - lower canyons and mountain slopes

3. Canadian Life Zone (Montane Forest) (8,500-9,500') Dfb
    - a. Douglas Fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii) - Aspen (Populus tremuloides aurea) - intermediate canyons and mountain slopes

4. Hudsonian Life Zone (Subalpine Forest) (9,500-11,000') Dfc
    - a. Engelmann Spruce (Picea engelmannii) - Alpine Fir (Abies lasiocarpa) - upper canyons and mountain slopes
    - b. Bristlecone Pine (Pinus longaeva) - Limber Pine (Pinus flexilis) upper canyons and mountain slopes

C. Tundra Biome - plant communities above timberline, composed of arctic shrubs, grasses, wildflowers and lichens - represented by shrub tundra, grassland tundra and rock tundra.

1. Arctic-Alpine Life Zone (Tundra Flora) (11,000-13,000') ET and EF
    - a. Alpine Tundra - highest ridges and peaks ET
    - b. Arctic Algae - Wheeler Glacieret (11,300-11,600') EF

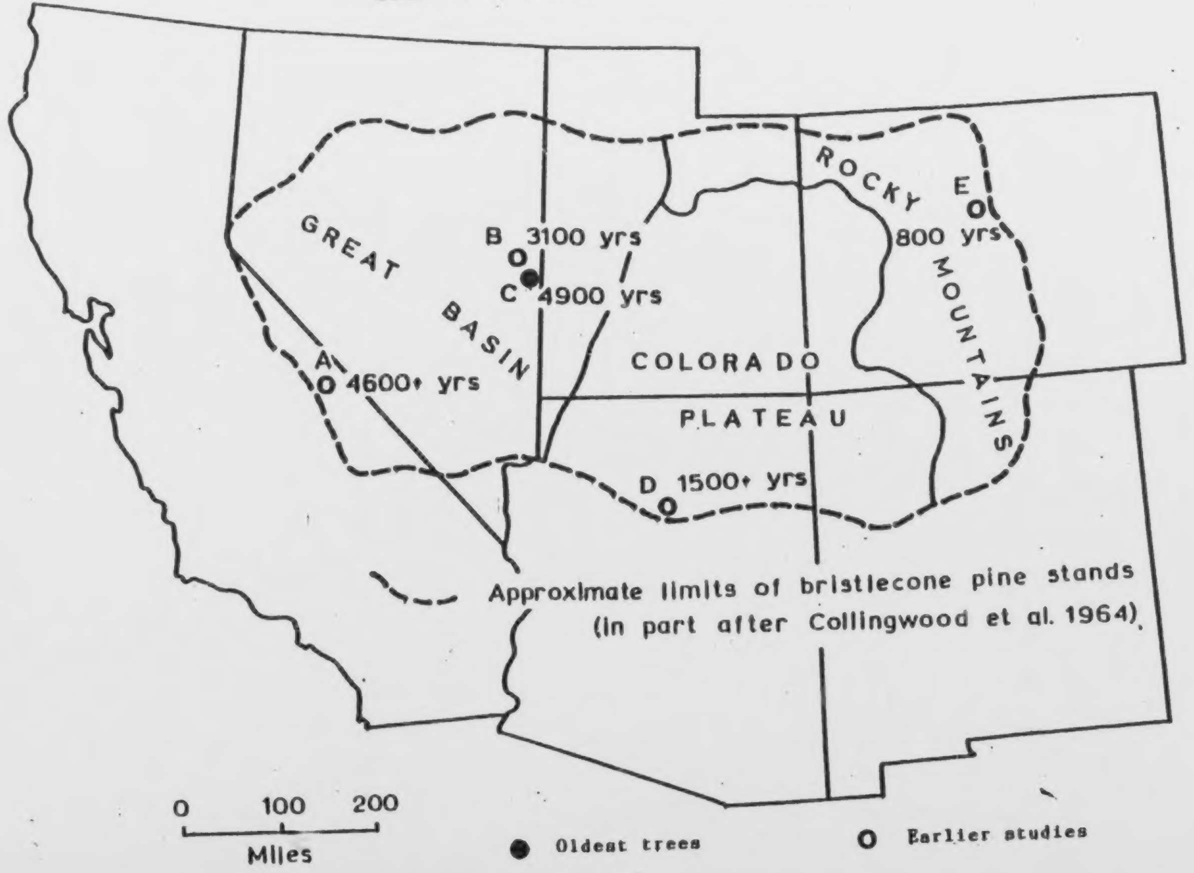
III. SOILS

A. Zonal Soils - mature residual soils, formed on gentle to moderate slopes with good drainage conditions. Characterized by well developed profiles, each with a distinct color, texture and structure. Developed chiefly in response to the influence of climate and vegetation over a long period of time.

Basin Pedocals (5,000-7,500')	Seventh Approximation Classification (Orders and Suborders)	Climate
1. Gray Desert Soils (Sierozems) (Develop under arid conditions and evergreen desert shrubs)	Aridisols - Argids	BWk
2. Brown Steppe Soils (Develop under semiarid conditions, with shrubs and bunch grasses)	Mollisols - Ustolls	BSk
3. Chestnut Soils (Develop under taller grasses and shrubs on upper alluvial fans)	Mollisols - Ustolls	BSk
4. Chernozems (Develop under tall grasses and a rich admixture of other flora in lower canyon areas)	Mollisols - Borolls	BSk

Mountain Pedalfers (7,500-13,000')	Seventh Approximation Classification (Orders and Suborders)	Climate
1. Prairie Soils (Develop under tallest grasses in lower and intermediate canyon areas)	Mollisols - Udolls	Dfa
2. Gray-Brown Podzolic Soils (Develop under mixed coniferous and aspen forests)	Alfisols - Udalfs	Dfa
3. Podzols (Develop under coniferous forests at upper elevations)	Spodosols - Orthods	Dfc

WORLD DISTRIBUTION OF BRISTLECONE PINE


GREAT BASIN
B 3100 yrs
C 4900 yrs
A 4600+ yrs
COLORADO PLATEAU
D 1500+ yrs
ROCKY MOUNTAINS
E 800 yrs
Approximate limits of bristlecone pine stands
(in part after Collingwood et al. 1964).
0
100
200
Miles
● Oldest trees
O Earlier studies

4. Tundra Soils — Inceptisols - Aquepts — ET
   (Develop under tundra grasses, wildflowers and shrubs above timberline)

B. Intrazonal Soils - mature residual soils with poorly developed horizons. Occur where local variations in either slope or parent material are dominant over the influence of climate and vegetation. Usually occupy only relatively small area where a high water table and poor drainage conditions exist.

1. Meadow Soils (Wiesenboden) — Ultisols - Aquults
   Heavily saturated with water and rich in organic matter - occur in both mountain and basin environments)

2. Solonetz — Aridisols - Argids
   (Black alkaline soils rich in sodium carbonate (Na_2CO_3)

3. Solonchaks
   (White alkaline soils rich in sodium chloride (NaCl)

C. Azonal Soils - transported or residual soils characterized by either extreme youth or development on steep slopes, preventing the development of horizons and mature profile. Occur where good drainage conditions exist and range from productive alluvial soils to infertile lithosols on steep mountain slopes.

1. Alluvial Soils - fertile stream deposited soils

2. Regosols - aeolian soils composed of wind deposited material

3. Lacustrine Soils - fine textured lake deposited soils

4. Lithosols - thin, rocky, residual soils, weathered from the underlying bedrock on steep slopes. Equivalent to the Entisols - Orthents, which exhibit great color, texture and structure diversity.

IV. NATIVE WILDLIFE

A. Mammals

1. Ungulates

   a. Pronghorn antelope, mule deer, elk, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and mustangs (feral horses)

2. Carnivores

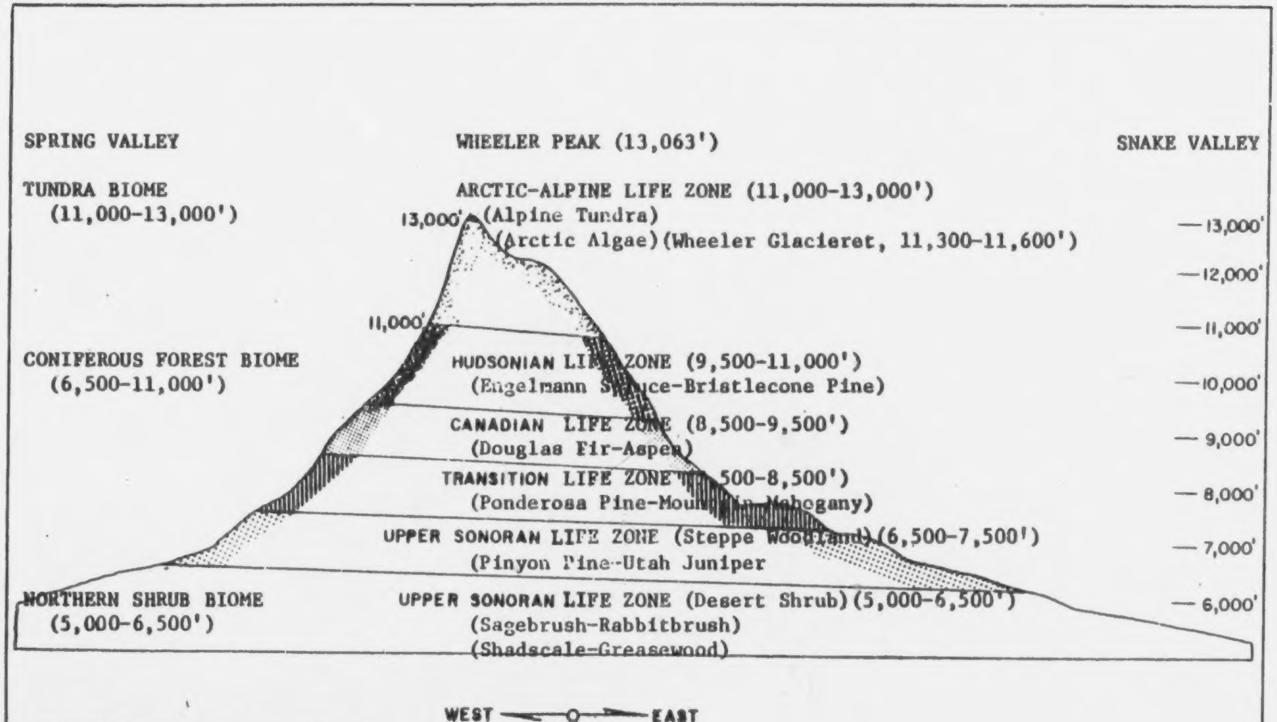
   a. Coyote, fox, wolf, bobcat and mountain lion

3. Mustelids

   a. Skunk, badger and weasels

4. Rodents

   a. Beaver, muskrat, porcupine, marmot, squirrels, gophers, chipmunks, rats, mice and voles


SPRING VALLEY
WHEELER PEAK (13,063')
SNAKE VALLEY
TUNDRA BIOME
(11,000-13,000')
ARCTIC-ALPINE LIFE ZONE (11,000-13,000')
(Alpine Tundra)
(Arctic Algae)(Wheeler Glacieret, 11,300-11,600')
13,000'
11,000'
CONIFEROUS FOREST BIOME
(6,500-11,000')
HUDSONIAN LIFE ZONE (9,500-11,000')
(Engelmann Spruce-Bristlecone Pine)
CANADIAN LIFE ZONE (8,500-9,500')
(Douglas Fir-Aspen)
TRANSITION LIFE ZONE 500-8,500')
(Ponderosa Pine-Mountain-Mahogany)
UPPER SONORAN LIFE ZONE (Steppe Woodland)(6,500-7,500')
(Pinyon Pine-Utah Juniper
NORTHERN SHRUB BIOME
(5,000-6,500')
UPPER SONORAN LIFE ZONE (Desert Shrub)(5,000-6,500')
(Sagebrush-Rabbitbrush)
(Shadscale-Greasewood)
—13,000'
—12,000'
—11,000'
—10,000'
—9,000'
—8,000'
—7,000'
—6,000'
WEST
EAST

VEGETATION PATTERN
WHEELER PEAK CROSS-SECTION

An east-west cross-section showing the vertical zonation of the three plant biomes, five life zones and eight plant associations in the Wheeler Peak area. This same pattern is also present on the other high peaks of the range, excluding the Arctic algae associated with the Wheeler Glacieret.

5. Lagomorphs

    a. Rabbits, shrews, bats and pika

B. Avifauna

    a. Songbirds, non-singing birds, terrestrial game birds, aquatic game birds and predatory birds

C. Reptiles

    1. Lizards and snakes

D. Amphibians

    1. Frogs and toads

E. Fish

    1. Basin types - catfish, Utah sucker, carp, yellow perch and brown trout

    2. Mountain types - rainbow trout, brook trout and Utah cutthroat trout (endemic)

ANTHROPOLOGICAL VALUES

I. GREAT BASIN INDIAN CULTURES

A. Desert Culture (8,000 B.C. - 400 A.D.)

    1. Originated in northeast Asia and reached the Great Basin during late Pleistocene time, approximately 30,000 years ago.

    2. Characterized by an unspecialized hunting and gathering economy, but Indians developed basketry, the metate (grinding slab) and mano (hand milling stone), and carved petroglyphs on canyon walls.

    3. Inhabitants lived in caves and rockshelters in the Great Basin ranges, and in open campsites along the shores of ancient Lake Bonneville and Lake Lahontan.

B. Fremont Culture (400 A.D. - 1200 A.D.)

    1. Evolved from the pre-existing Desert Culture, with an infusion of cultu traits from the Anazazi society on the Colorado Plateau.

    2. Relatively advanced culture with compact villages, adobe houses, horticulture, more sophisticated tools and weapons, pictographs, and a more complex social and political organization.

    3. Culture terminated in the Great Basin about 1276 A.D., when a widespread drought engulfed the American southwest and forced the people to move southward into the Salt, Gila and Rio Grande valleys where there was a more reliable water supply.

    4. Fremont villages were located at Garrison (excavated) and Baker (unexcavated), utilizing the water supply from Snake and Lehman creeks

C. Shoshone Culture (1200 A.D. - Present)

1. Originated in the southwest, with the people migrating northward into the Great Basin and eventually east to the Great Plains.

2. Dwellings were portable skin tepees, and a hunting and gathering economy was practiced.

3. Shoshone Indians occupied the Great Basin when the first European settlers arrived, resulting in the disruption of their culture and a change to reservation life.

HISTORICAL VALUES

I. GREAT BASIN SEQUENT OCCUPANCE

A. Spanish Exploration

1. Father Escalante-Domínguez Expedition (1776), and the establishment of the Old Spanish Trail (1830).

B. Fur Trappers and Traders

1. Jedediah Strong Smith (1826-1827), Peter Skene Ogden (1828-1832), and other prominent mountain men.

C. Emigrant Trains to California

1. Along the Northern (Humboldt Trail), Central (Egan-Simpson Trail), and Southern (Salt Lake-Los Angeles Trail).

D. U.S. Government Surveys

1. Fremont Surveys (1843-1844, 1845 and 1853) - Captain John C. Fremont, responsible for naming the Great Basin.

2. Transportation Surveys (1855-1859) - Captain John W. Gunnison, Howard R. Egan and Captain James H. Simpson along the Central Route to California. Surveys led to the establishment of the Overland Stage (1859-1868), Pony Express (1860-1861), and Overland Telegraph (1861-1869).

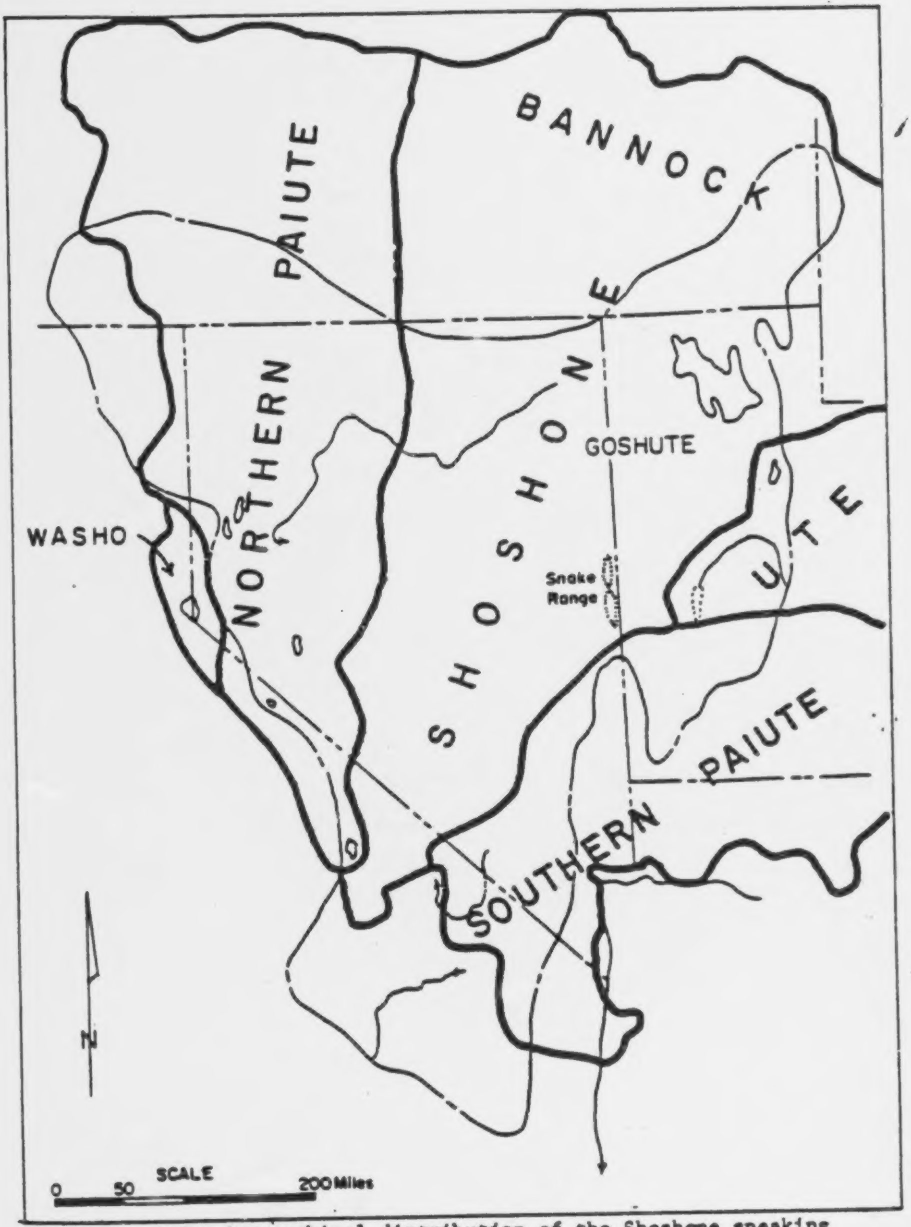
3. Wheeler Survey (1869-1879) - Captain George M. Wheeler, the first comprehensive survey of the American southwest.

4. U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, and the establishment of the Wheeler Peak Heliograph Station (1881).

E. Mormon Settlement Period (1847)

1. First European colonization in the Great Basin, and the founding of 376 new settlements under the direction of Brigham Young.

2. White Mountain Mission (1855), representing the initial, but temporary European settlement of Snake Valley (1858).


BANNOCK
NORTHERN PAIUTE
NORTHERN
SHOSHONE
GOSHUTE
WASHO
Snake Range
UTE
SOUTHERN PAIUTE
N
SCALE
0
50
200 Miles

The geographical distribution of the Shoshone speaking Indians in the Great Basin.

F. Mining Settlement Period (1859)

1. Discovery of the Comstock Lode (1859), and subsequent mining developments across the Great Basin, such as Pioche (1864), Hamilton (1865) and Osceola (1872), in eastern Nevada.

G. Snake and Spring Valley Ranching Settlements

1. Absalom Lehman Ranch established on Lehman Creek (1866), and the later discovery of Lehman Caves (1885).

2. Founding of Burbank and Shoshone (1869), Garrison (1870), and Baker (1873).

II. GREAT BASIN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

A. Primary Industries

1. Ranching, farming, mining and forestry

B. Secondary Industries

1. Processing of metals, gold, tungsten and other mineral resources

C. Tertiary Industries

1. Tourism, focusing on Lehman Caves National Monument, Humboldt National Forest, and other natural and cultural attractions in the Great Basin.

CONCLUSION

I. TWO QUESTIONS

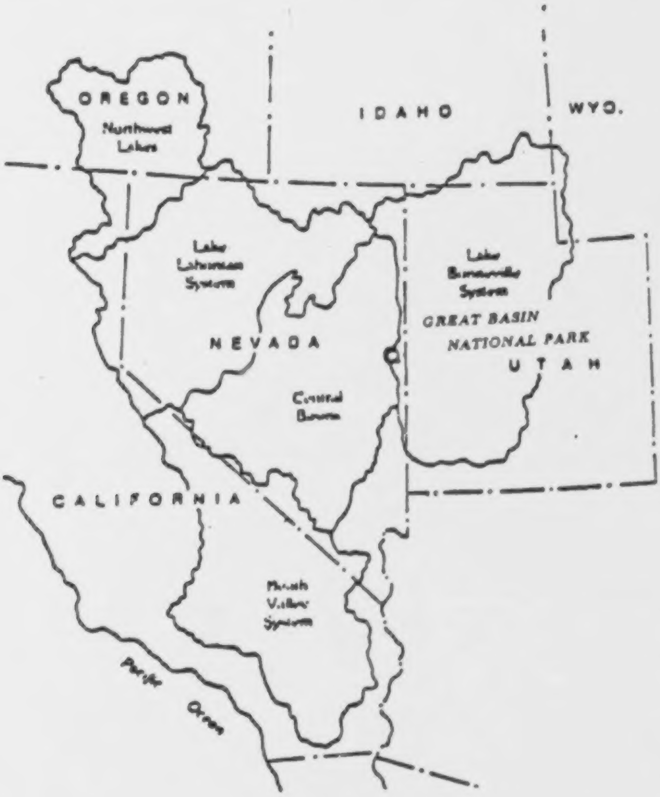
A. Is there a need for a national park in the Great Basin?

B. Does the Snake Range qualify for national park status?

C. If the answers are in the affirmative, it is time to introduce the proper legislation to make the proposed Great Basin National Park a reality.

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

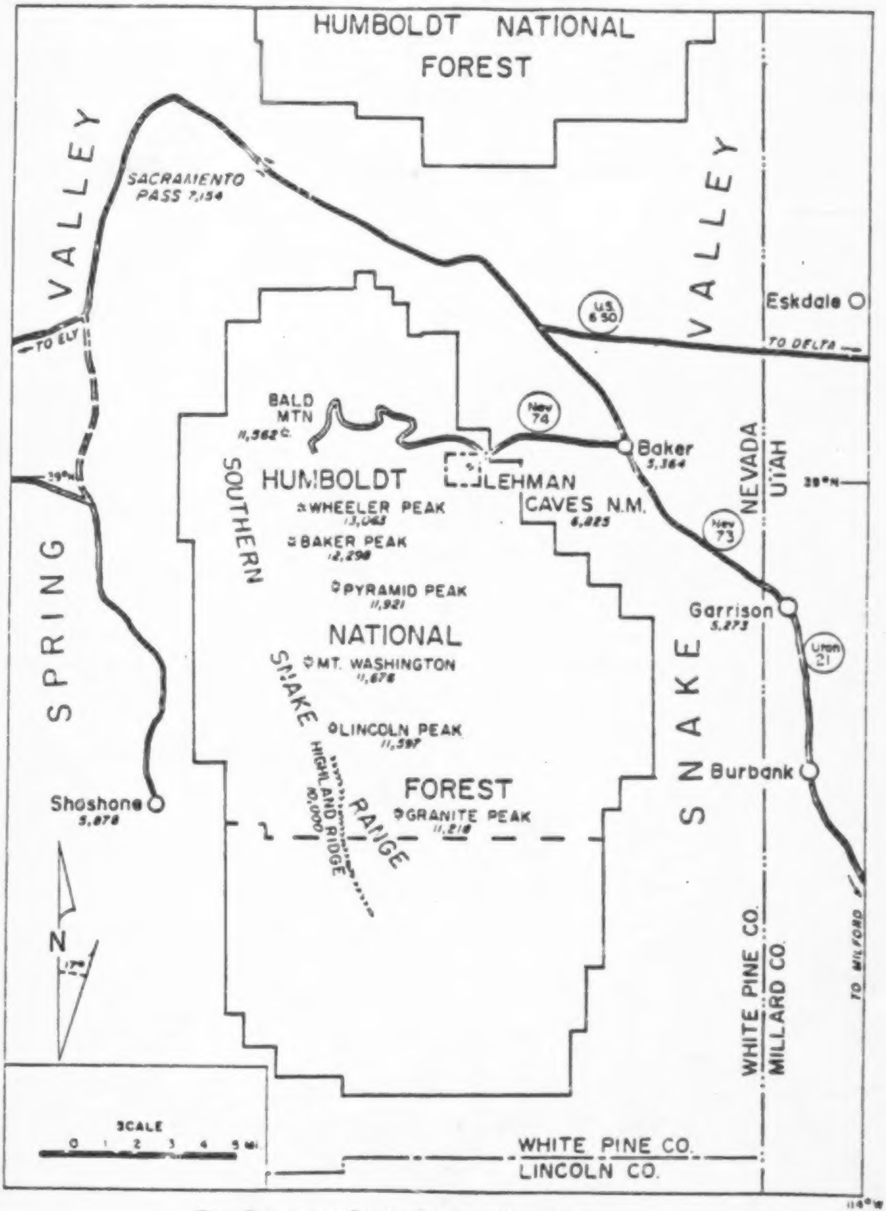
THE STORY BEHIND THE SCENERY


OREGON
Northwest Lakes
IDAHO
WYO.
Lake Lahontan System
Lake Bonneville System
GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK
NEVADA
UTAH
Central Basin
CALIFORNIA
Death Valley System
Pacific Ocean

Proposed
by
Dr. Robert Starr Waite
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS
NOVEMBER 25, 1985
ELY, NEVADA

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK


HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST
SACRAMENTO PASS 7,154
SPRING VALLEY
TO ELY
39°N
U.S. 6 50
Eskdale
TO DELTA
SNAKE VALLEY
BALD MTN 11,562
Nev 74
Baker 5,364
SOUTHERN
HUMBOLDT
NATIONAL
FOREST
LEHMAN CAVES N.M. 6,825
WHEELER PEAK 13,063
BAKER PEAK 12,298
PYRAMID PEAK 11,921
MT. WASHINGTON 11,676
LINCOLN PEAK 11,597
GRANITE PEAK 11,218
SNAKE RANGE
HIGHLAND RIDGE 10,000
Nev 73
NEVADA
UTAH
38°N
Garrison 5,273
Utah 21
Burbank
Shoshone 5,878
TO MILFORD
N
17°
WHITE PINE CO.
MILLARD CO.
WHITE PINE CO.
LINCOLN CO.
SCALE
0 1 2 3 4 5 MI.
114°W

The Southern Snake Range, Nevada

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK
NEVADA

One Of The World's Most Important National Parks
Dedicated To The Interpretation Of A Tree, A Mountain, And A Region

I. ANCIENT BRISTLECONE PINE

The World's Oldest Living Tree

Ancient 5,000 year old bristlecone pine have outlived all other life forms, revolutionized the Science of Dendrochronology, improved the accuracy of Carbon 14 dating, and recorded environmental conditions since the last Ice Age - a tree that is truly worthy to be honored by a national park and the World Heritage Foundation list of outstanding natural features.

ANCIENT
BRISTLECONE
PINE

Park Symbol

II. SOUTHERN SNAKE RANGE

Spectacular Alpine Scenery

Wheeler Glacier, Wheeler Rock Glacier, Lehman Caves, Lexington Arch, Ice Age Lakes, Mt. Washington, Big Wash Canyon, Lincoln Peak, Mountain Mahogany, Archaeological and Historical Sites, combined with ancient Bristlecone Pine, to providing a variety of scenery unlike any other national park in America.

WHEELER
PEAK

Park Site

III. THE GREAT BASIN

Heart Of Western America

A national park designed to interpret the Great Basin story - Geology, Biology, Antropology and History - centrally located between the Wasatch and Sierra Nevada, representing a 200,000 square mile area in six states. Since the Great Basin is a unique landscape type, a national park would add a new dimension to the system, unlike anything else in the world.

THE
GREAT
BASIN

Park Setting

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK
NEVADA

LANDSCAPE INTERPRETATION

I. GEOLOGY — A MOUNTAINOUS DESERT

The Great Basin is a region of impressive fault-block ranges, uplifted in Tertiary time, 60 million years ago. Typifying this structural pattern is the Snake Range, with 14,000 feet of Paleozoic and Precambrian strata dating back one billion years. Scenic features include stream cut canyons, glacial cirques, Ice Age lakes, the Wheeler Glacier - a remarkable 2,000 foot span of moving ice - and Wheeler Rock Glacier - a one-half mile stream of shattered bedrock moving down the cirque floor. Lehman and Baker Creek caves, the most spacious and colorful caverns west of the continental divide, and Lexington Arch, are located lower in the canyons, with the shoreline features of ancient Lake Bonneville on the floor of Snake Valley.

II. BIOLOGY — SKY ISLAND FORESTS

Represented by seven North American climates, the 8,000 foot ascent of Wheeler Peak is equivalent to a 3,000 mile traverse from central Nevada to the Arctic icecap. Within this vertical distance a wide variety of life forms are present. Bordered by shadscale and sagebrush basins, the ascending trees and life zones are the pinyon-juniper (Upper Sonoran), ponderosa pine-mountain mahogany (Transition), Douglas fir-aspen (Canadian), Engelmann spruce-bristlecone pine (Hudsonian), and tundra-Arctic algae (Arctic-Alpine) Life Zone. This vertical [illegible] contains a remarkable assemblage of ecological communities with changing mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds and fish, with each climatic zone.

III. ANTHROPOLOGY — THE FIRST INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Three prehistoric cultures characterize the Great Basin region. First, the Desert Archaic (8,000 B.C.-400 A.D.) originating in northeast Asia in Pleistocene time, were characterized by an unspecialized hunting and gathering economy, petroglyphs, cave dwellings and lived in open campsites bordering Lake Bonneville. The Fremont Culture (400 A.D.-1200 A.D.), moved westward from the Colorado Plateau, representing the most advanced society in the Great Basin, with compact villages, adobe dwellings, pictographs, horticulture, and a complex social system. Terminated by the Great Drought (1276-1298 A.D.), they were replaced by the Shoshone Culture (1300 A.D.-Present), that originated in southern California, lived in skin tepees, practiced a hunting and gathering economy, and occupied the Great Basin when the first European settlers arrived.

IV. HISTORY — ADVENT OF CONTEMPORARY MAN

From the Spanish explorers-Riviera (1756) and Escalante (1776) - to contemporary man, the Great Basin has experienced a wide range of cultural developments. In the fur trapper era, Jedediah Strong Smith (1826-1827) first crossed the region, and the Government surveyor Captain John C. Fremont (1843-1844) gave the Great Basin its name. Emigrant trains moved west to California, railroad surveys covered three different routes, and the Overland Stage, (1859-1869), Pony Express (1860-1861), and Transcontinental Railroad (1869), were all part of the early settlement pattern. Captain George M. Wheeler conducted the first topographic survey of the West, starting at Wheeler Peak which he climbed in 1869. The U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey built the Wheeler Peak Heliograph Station (1882). Absalom Lehman (1866), was the first white settler in Snake Valley and discovered Lehman Caves in 1885.

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK
NEVADA

BRISTLECONE PINE
Symbol Of The Great Basin

SITE AND SETTING

I. **TIMBERLINE ANCIENTS** - Bristlecone pine (*Pinus longaeva*) originated 30 million years ago in northwest Alaska. Today 5,000 year old trees, and wood fragments dating back 10,000 years, still survive. Cold, dry, rocky timberline conditions - combined with hard, dense wood and long bark and needle retention - foster this great longevity.

II. **SOUTHERN SNAKE RANGE** - Site of Prometheus (4,900 years), the world's oldest tree, began growing 3,000 B.C. Timberline habitat (10,000'-11,200'), Subarctic climate, Hudsonian Life Zone, characterize bristlecone pine environmental conditions. Three Snake Range stands: (1) Wheeler Peak (130 acres), (2) Mt. Washington (540 acres), Bristlecone Peak (160 acres), each geographically diverse, provide variety and interest to the alpine landscape.

III. **GREAT BASIN** - Bristlecone pine occupy mountaintop sites in six states - White Mountains (California) to Front Range (Colorado), and Ruby Mountains (Nevada) to San Francisco Mountains (Arizona). Oldest stands occur in the Great Basin, where the harshest environmental conditions prevail.

SCIENCE AND AESTHETICS

I. **SCIENTIFIC VALUE** - Bristlecone pine is important to science because of its great longevity. Dendrochronology now has a 10,000 year tree-ring record capable of dating world events back to the last Ice Age. This remarkable tree has doubled the tree-ring calendar, corrected Carbon 14 dating, and contributed environmental information to:

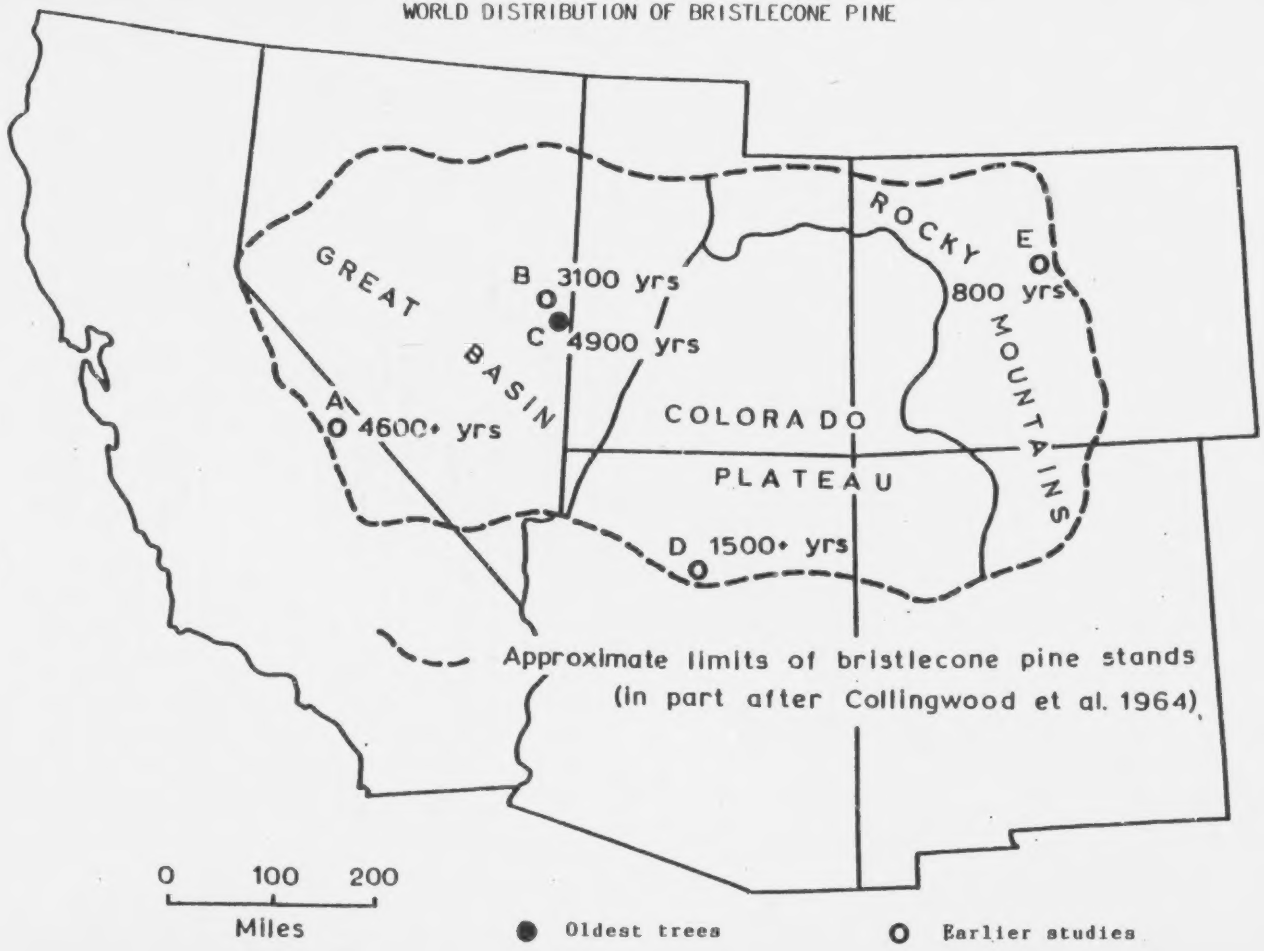
   A. **Climatology** - Reconstruct past meteorological records and climates, with weather maps dating back to 1600 A.D.
   B. **Geology** - Date past geological events - earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions and glacial features associated with the Little Ice Age
   C. **Hydrology** - Analyze past stream and lake fluctuations based on changing precipitation patterns, developed for American and Canadian rivers
   D. **Biology** - Study past biological variations associated with a warmer climate during the Altithermal, evidenced by a 300 foot fossil timberline
   E. **Archaeology** - Reconstruct completion dates for prehistoric structures, derived from on site tree-ring dated wood
   F. **History** - Provide dates for historical features such as miners cabins, wagons, pioneer dwellings, and events such as forest fires

II. **AESTHETIC VALUE** - America's most picturesque tree - exposed roots, asymmetrical trunks, gnarled branches, spiked tops, colorful needles and cones - a symbol of grace and beauty to the artist, poet and humanitarian.

NEED FOR NATIONAL PARK STATUS AND WORLD HERITAGE FOUNDATION RECOGNITION

I. **RECOGNITION** - Need to dedicate a national park to bristlecone pine to provide: (1) Protection against fire, theft, vandalism and commercial gain, (2) Interpretation of its unique aesthetic and scientific qualities for America and the world. National park status would place bristlecone pine on the World Heritage Foundation list of outstanding natural features - a worthy honor for a tree that deserves international recognition - a tree that symbolizes the Great Basin, where the oldest forms still survive today.

WORLD DISTRIBUTION OF BRISTLECONE PINE


GREAT BASIN
COLORADO PLATEAU
ROCKY MOUNTAINS
A 4600+ yrs
B 3100 yrs
C 4900 yrs
D 1500+ yrs
E 800 yrs
Approximate limits of bristlecone pine stands
(in part after Collingwood et al. 1964).
0 100 200
Miles
● Oldest trees
O Earlier studies

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK
NEVADA

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

I. FIRST NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL (1924)

A. Lehman Caves - Wheeler Peak National Park (8,000 acres)

Interpret the scenic attractions of the Wheeler Peak-Lehman Caves area

B. Senate Bill Introduced - Senator Key Pittman (Nevada) 1924

Defeated by opposition from mining and grazing interests

C. Concept - Originated by C. C. Boak, mining engineer, Tonopah (Nevada) - To establish the first national park in Nevada

II. SECOND NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL (1955)

A. Great Basin National Park (124,500 acres)

Interpret the scenic and scientific attractions of the Snake Range.

B. Senate Bill S. 1760 - Senator Alan Bible (Nevada), Senator Howard W. Cannon (Nevada) 1961 - Passed the Senate 1962

House Bill H.R. 6873 - Congressman Walter S. Baring (Nevada) 1961 - Defeated 1963 by opposition from mining and grazing interests

C. Concept - Orginated by Weldon F. Heald, conservationist, Tucson (Arizona) - Developed by Darwin Lambert, editor, Ely Daily Times - To establish the first national park in the Great Basin

III. THIRD NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL (1985)

A. Great Basin National Park (124,500 acres)

Interpret the ancient bristlecone pine, Snake Range attractions and Great Basin region

B. Senate and House Bills - Legislation introduced into the House of Representatives, Wednesday, November 13, 1985, by Congressman Harry M. Reid, Nevada

C. Concept - Orginated by Dr. Robert Starr Waite, Department of Geography, University of Utah, Salt Lake City - To complete the first comprehensive scientific study of the Snake Range - Geology, Biology, Anthropology and History, a master plan for developing the park, its function to interpert the Great Basin landscape, and qualifications of the Snake Range for national park status. To establish the first national park in Nevada and the Great Basin.

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

NEVADA

VALUES

I. PROTECTION — THE SNAKE RANGE

Protection of the scenic and scientific resources of the Snake Range, including the maring and removal of bristlecone pine wood, artifacts and historical features, would be accomplished by establishing a national park. Overgrazing and erosion could be controlled, and native plants and animals could be reintroduced where they have been depleted.

II. INTERPRETATION — THE GREAT BASIN

Interpretation of fault-block ranges, bristlecone pine, prehistoric cultures, and major historical events are all important Great Basin features. Through a national park visitor center, library, interpretative programs, nature walks, and Great Basin Natural History Association, with publications, maps, films and other interpretative materials, these goals can be accomplished.

III. AESTHETICS — LANDSCAPE APPRECIATION

Dramatic examples of Great Basin scenery such as picturesque bristlecone pine and mountain mahogany, delicate cave formations and limestone arches, rugged mountain peaks and high glacial lakes, with massive cliffs, canyons and cirques - all surmounted by magnificient Wheeler Peak - represent one of western America's most scenic outdoor areas.

IV. RECREATION — ENJOYING THE LAND

A national park offers recreation ranging from rock climbing to picnicking. Major types include hiking, camping, skiing, horseback riding, photography and fishing. National parks have always had the highest status of any recreational areas in the world.

V. ECONOMICS — THE ROAD TO SURVIVAL

New tourist-oriented industries, based on the establishment of a national park, would solidly strengthen and diversify the Great Basin economy. Free nation-wide publicity, appropriation of National Park Service funds, and increased tourist dollars would help to insure future economic gain. Since there currently is no significant mining or timber industry on the Snake Range, a national park would be an important economic boost to eastern Nevada. It has been estimated the new park would provide a greater economic return than present land use activities, amounting to approximately 20 million dollars of new income per year.

VI. CONCLUSION

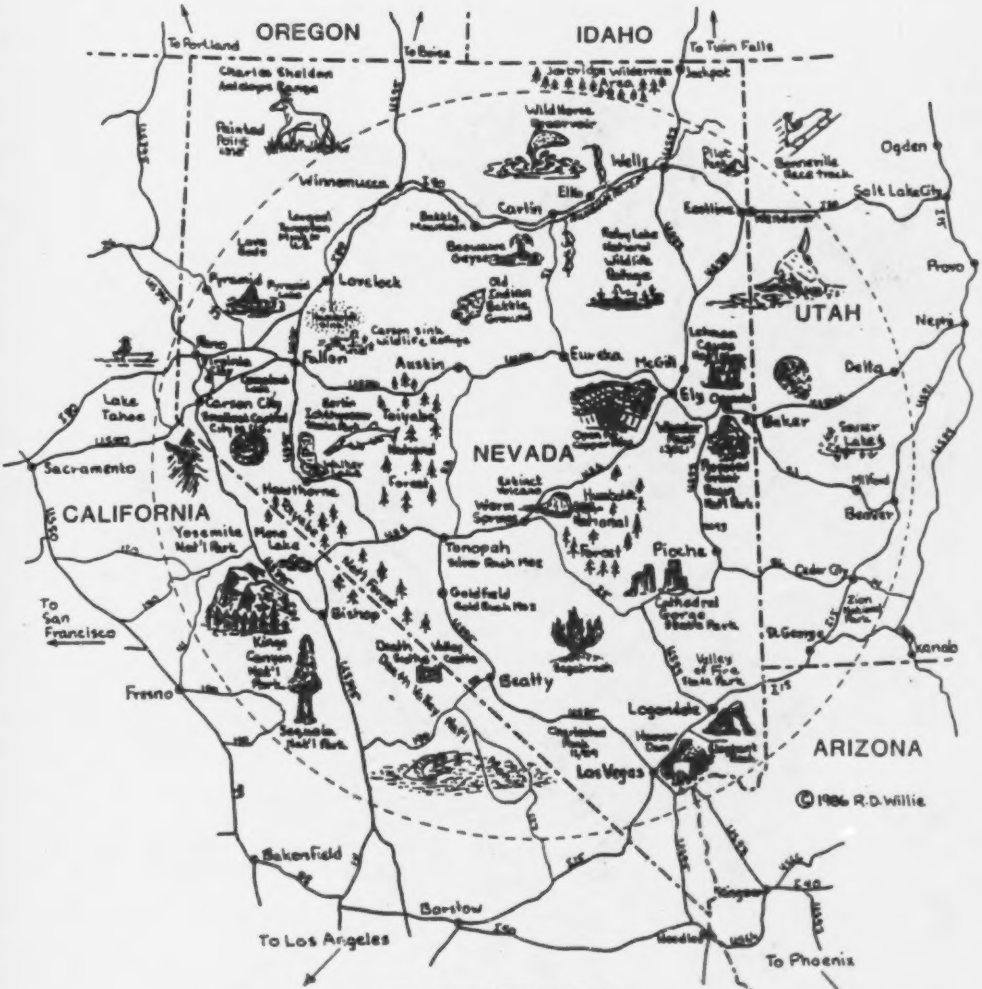
This is a project that is far more important than many people realize because it is a permanent economic mainstay that will grow in both state and national importance in the coming years. In terms of federal funding, tourist dollars, educational value, commercial developments and new tourist industries, the combined economic, educational and recreational advantages of a national park are tremendous.

GREAT BASIN

THE STORY BEHIND THE SCENERY

NEVADA

THE SILVER CIRCLE


OREGON
IDAHO
To Portland
To Boise
To Twin Falls
Charles Sheldon Antelope Range
Painted Point
Jarbidge Wilderness Area
Jackpot
Wild Horse Reservoir
Wells
Elko
Carlin
Winnemucca
Babbitt Mountain
Beowawe Geyser
Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge
Bonneville Race track
Ogden
Salt Lake City
Wendover
Provo
Nephi
UTAH
Lovelock
Lava Beds
Pyramid
Pyramid Lake
Old Indian Battle Ground
Carson sink wildlife Refuge
Reno
Virginia City
Fallon
Austin
Eureka
McGill
Lehman Caves
Ely
Delta
Baker
Sevier Lake
Lake Tahoe
Carson City
Berlin Ichthyosaur State Park
Toiyabe
National
Forest
NEVADA
Sacramento
CALIFORNIA
Yosemite Nat'l Park
Mono Lake
Hawthorne
Extinct Volcano
Warm Springs
Humboldt
National
Forest
Milford
Beaver
Tonopah
Silver Rush 1902
Goldfield
Gold Rush 1903
Pioche
Cedar City
To San Francisco
Bishop
Kings Canyon Nat'l Park
Death Valley
Death Valley Nat'l
Sagebrush
Cathedral Gorge State Park
St. George
Zion National Park
Kanab
Beatty
Valley of Fire State Park
Fresno
Sequoia Nat'l Park
Logandale
Hoover Dam
Los Vegas
ARIZONA
© 1986 R.D. Willie
Bakersfield
Barstow
Kingman
Needles
To Los Angeles
To Phoenix
I 80
I 15
I 40
I 5

DR. ROBERT STARR WAITE

GREAT BASIN

GEOLOGY - BIOLOGY - ANTHROPOLOGY - HISTORY

PROPOSED

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

NEVADA

BRISTLECONE PINES have recently been found by scientists to be the oldest living things on earth. The proposed park has numerous bristlecone forests with healthy young trees — and such ancient giants as this one.

LEXINGTON ARCH, which may once have been part of a limestone cavern, is large enough to span a six-story building.

SUPERBLY QUALIFIED
FOR NATIONAL PARK STATUS

The Great Basin occupies much of Nevada and Utah and parts of four other states. Motorists crossing it feel the mystery of space, of endless, fearsome desert, but are generally unaware of what lies hidden. In the little known mountains are meadows, forests, lakes, and hundreds of dashing streams, yet from this strange land of alternating valleys and mountain ranges no streams flow to the sea.

The Great Basin is not like any other place. Its plants, wildlife and rock structures are distinctive; its scenery, spectacular and infinitely varied. Recent studies by the National Park Service and other park authorities have proved the Wheeler Peak-Lehman Caves area at the region's center to be the superb example of the Great Basin type with nationally significant ecologic, geologic and scenic values.

Five life zones represent the life of North America from the Upper Sonoran desert of the southwestern states to the Arctic-Alpine tundra of the far north — with belts of Transition, Canadian and Hudsonian forests between. Shadscale and sagebrush country, with cactus, desert reptiles, antelope and jackrabbits, in the valleys below 6,000 feet, changes in the foothills to a cover of juniper and piñon pine where the habitat of the mule deer starts along with that of bobcat, mountain lion, and many smaller forms of life.

Higher up are mountain mahogany and ponderosa pine, then forests of aspen, white fir and Douglas fir, then expanses of Engelmann spruce and limber pine — still the home of deer in warm weather along with occasional elk and mountain sheep. At timberline in many places are forests of bristlecone pine, oldest living things on earth. Many of the gnarled ogres are over thirty feet in trunk circumference, unforgettable illustrations of a struggle for life which began centuries before Christ. Biologists call these bristlecone forests, with miles of healthy young trees as well as the ancient giants, "reason enough in themselves for national park status." Higher yet, ranging far above timberline to the very summit of Wheeler Peak at 13,063 feet, are Arctic rock gardens.

From the peaks the distinctive structure of the Great Basin is displayed like a diagram. On the west is a steep scarp of the block-faulted range, dropping 7500 feet to the valley. On the east are chasm-like cirques and wide glacial basins, leading down to stream-eroded canyons that empty into the valley where Lake Bonneville lay thousands of years ago. In every direction basin-and-range topography stretches into blue distance, one of the most spectacular scenes in all creation.

Lehman Caves (national monument since 1922) and many other caves illustrate superbly still another phase of geology. There is a limestone arch large enough to span a six-story building. Amazingly, a small glacier survives in the deep Wheeler cirque, and below it are a rock stream and other fascinating rock phenomena.

Archeologists have found artifacts in caves and "writing" on cliffs, indicating three periods of ancient habitation. There are exhibits too of recent history — mine workings and the ruins of an ore mill and saw mills dating from the period of 1870 to 1917.

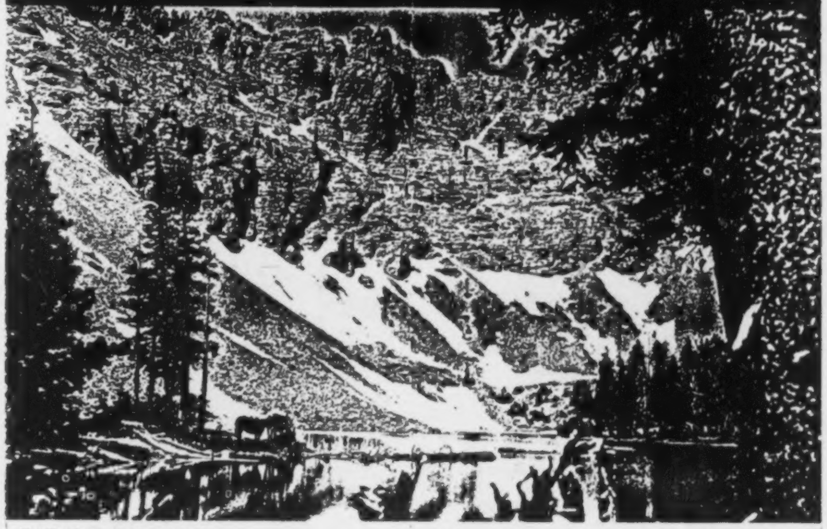
Authoritative findings have clearly shown the qualifications of the area — a 147,000-acre Great Basin outdoor museum and recreation ground — for national park status.

Additional copies of this folder are available from

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Carson City, Nevada

PROPOSED
GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK
NEVADA

PROPOSED
GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK
NEVADA



TREASURE LAKE nestles among Engelmann spruce trees beneath the remarkably perfect semi-circle of thousand-foot cliffs at the head of Baker Creek.

"The Wheeler Peak area has more variety of outstanding scenery than any existing national park"—Fred Packard

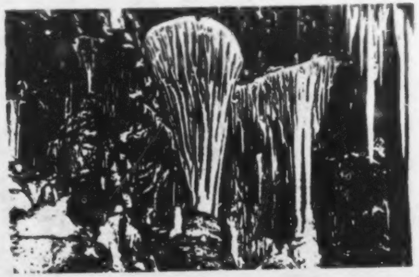
WHEELER PEAK, 13,063 FEET ABOVE SEA
GREAT BRISTLECONE PINES
JEWEL-LIKE MOUNTAIN LAKES
UNFORGETTABLE PANARAMA OF MOUNTAINS, VALLEYS
REMARKABLY VARIED WILDFLOWERS
DASHING TROUT STREAMS
LEHMAN CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT
MYSTERIOUS ROCK GLACIER

FIVE LIFE ZONES WITHIN FIVE MILES
OLDEST LIVING THINGS
DESERT BOUND ACTIVE GLACIER
SPECTACULAR CLIFFS AND DEEP GORGES
AMAZING ARCHES AND PINNACLES
BLOCK-FAULTED MOUNTAINS
DARK FORESTS AND GREEN MEADOWS
GREAT VARIETY OF WILDLIFE

PARK IS NEEDED

Increasing congestion in existing national parks shows the need for more such areas of superb natural scenery for the inspiration, education and enjoyment of the people. Great Basin National Park is needed also to help complete the park system by preserving the superlative example of Great Basin country and interpreting the geographic region as a significant part of the American heritage. Park establishment will bring new appreciation for all Nevada and Utah.

The park will serve millions of people. Situated beside major transnation highways — US 6-50 east-west and US 93 north-south, — it is but a day's drive from major population centers of the west. It has splendid sites for picnicking and camping, fascinating routes for hiking and horseback trails, striking scenery to catch on film, and concentrated opportunities for nature study. Trout fishing in streams and lakes will continue. A "Sky-Island Road" will exhibit spectacular scenes not duplicated anywhere in the world.



"THE PARACHUTE" in Lehman Caves National Monument, a feature of the proposed park, illustrates the rare shield type of formation for which the cave is world famous. There are many caves in this mountain range.

LINCOLN CANYON is a hidden chasm with varied forests on its floor, surrounded by spectacular limestone cliffs and pinnacles towering thousands of feet toward the sky.

HISTORY
OF PARK MOVEMENT

Efforts to create Great Basin National Park were started by the White Pine Chamber of Commerce and Mines at Ely in 1955 after a conference with Weldon F. Heald of Tucson, Arizona, who had discovered the desert-bound glacier. Heald's articles gained nation-wide circulation, bringing conservation-group endorsements, while the chamber at Ely built Nevada support.

The Nevada Department of Economic Development, a key supporter, helped produce a 30-minute, 16 mm., color-sound movie of the area (available for showings) and supplied funds for this folder. The department's 17-man advisory board unanimously endorsed the park, and members have worked for it individually. Senator Alan Bible of Nevada persuaded the National Park Service to study the area. Scientists of the University of Nevada made geologic and biologic investigations.

Nation-wide help was given by National Parks Association, Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, American Nature Association, National Council of State Garden Clubs, Nature Conservancy, Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, Desert Protective Council, and others. In Nevada, support was given by Nevada Association of County Commissioners, Nevada Municipal Association, Nevada Jaycees, Lions and American Legion, conventions of both political parties, Nevada Chamber of Commerce Association, Nevada Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Governor Grant Sawyer, and many others.

Great Basin National Park Association (Box 688, Ely, Nevada) was formed in 1957 (Darwin Lambert, Ely editor, president) and is now international in membership. In 1959 the Advisory Board on National Parks of the U.S. Department of the Interior recommended the proposed park area as nationally significant and representative of the Great Basin. The Nevada Foundation for a National Park was formed with headquarters at Carson City. The state's only two living former governors — Vail M. Pittman (Democrat) and Charles H. Russell (Republican)—are co-chairmen of this foundation, and prominent men in various parts of Nevada are trustees.

In late 1959 bills to establish the park were introduced in Congress by the entire Nevada delegation—Senators Alan Bible and Howard W. Cannon sponsoring S-2664 and Representative Walter S. Baring, the identical HR-9156. Park advocates are asked to spread the fact and urge congressional delegations and the Interior and Insular Affairs committees of both houses to support the legislation.

THIS VIEW over Emerald Lake and down Snake Creek shows the amazing variety of the proposed national park — from Arctic tundra thru extensive forests to desert, desert ranges and valleys of the Great Basin.

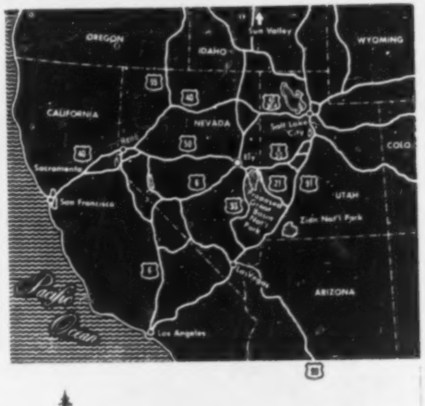
ECONOMIC MEANING

Regional gain is not a reason for establishing a national park, but it should be known that possible economic losses in the Wheeler area are insignificant while probable gains are great.

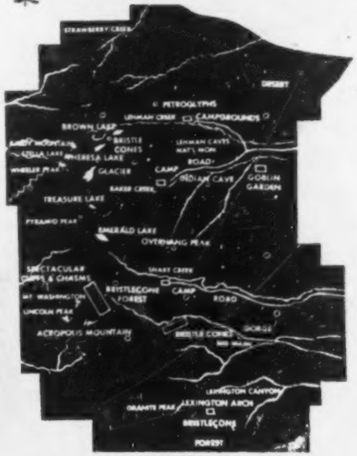
There is no timber industry. The few mineralized areas within the proposed park are covered by claims which will remain valid. No fishing will be lost. The deer kill of approximately a hundred a year — even if not made up by a late hunt outside the boundaries where deer migrate as cold weather comes—will be a small loss. Grazing permits, on both Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management areas involved, cover 650 cattle for less than four months a year and 3000 sheep for two weeks to three months. Park policy calls for continuing grazing permits for the lifetime of permit holders.

Economic gains, by contrast, will be of real importance, especially to Nevada and Utah. Authoritative study indicates more than half a million people a year will be attracted by the park, adding approximately $10,000,000 a year to the economy.

OUTDOOR RECREATION will be enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of people in Great Basin National Park. Here a riding club group is shown on the Lehman Creek trail beneath 13,063 foot Wheeler Peak.

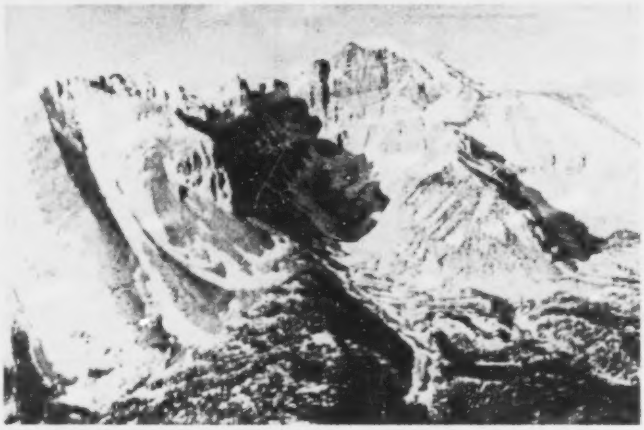


OREGON
IDAHO
Sun Valley
WYOMING
CALIFORNIA
NEVADA
Salt Lake City
COLO
Reno
Sacramento
Ely
San Francisco
Proposed Great Basin Nat'l Park
UTAH
Zion Nat'l Park
Las Vegas
ARIZONA
Los Angeles
Pacific Ocean
95
40
50
6
21
91
93



STRAWBERRY CREEK
DESERT
PETROGLYPHS
LEHMAN CREEK
CAMPGROUNDS
BROWN LAKE
BRISTLE CONES
LEHMAN CAVES NAT'L MON
STELLA LAKE
TERESA LAKE
ROAD
WHEELER PEAK
GLACIER
CAMP
INDIAN CAVE
GOBLIN GARDEN
BAKER CREEK
TREASURE LAKE
PYRAMID PEAK
EMERALD LAKE
OVERHANG PEAK
SPECTACULAR CLIFFS & CHASMS
SNAKE CREEK
BRISTLECONE FOREST
CAMP
ROAD
MT. WASHINGTON
LINCOLN PEAK
ACROPOLIS MOUNTAIN
GORGE
BRISTLE CONES
LEXINGTON CANYON
GRANITE PEAK
LEXINGTON ARCH
BRISTLECONE
FOREST

A NATIONAL PARK FOR THE GREAT BASIN



Wheeler Peak, elevation 13,063 feet. In the center foreground is Bristlecone Ridge, where the world's oldest living tree (over 4,900 rings) was found and removed for study.
USFS / Robert S. Waite

It is up to the U.S. Senate, and specifically Sen. Paul Laxalt (R-NV) to decide if the Wheeler Peak area of Nevada's southern Snake Range will become a Great Basin National Park. The idea is not a new one. "This proposal hold's the world's record," says park advocate Dr. Robert Starr Waite of the University of Utah. "It has been 62 years now that people have been trying to get a park." Park legislation was introduced in 1924 by Nevada Sen. Key Pittman and in 1955 by Sens. Alan Bible and Howard Cannon.

The current bill, H.R. 4642, is sponsored by Rep. Harry Reid (D-NV) and passed the House of Representatives April 30. It would designate a 129,500 acre national park and adjoining 45,500 acre national preserve. Reid had originally proposed a 174,000 acre national park. The "Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1986" would also designate ten new national forest wilderness areas totaling 543,000 acres and enlarge the Jarbidge Wilderness from 64,000 to 113,000 acres.

Rep. Barbara Vucanovich (R-NV) is skeptical about the move to designate the park and more wilderness in her district. A motion by Vucanovich on the House floor to amend the Reid bill and strike the park provisions was defeated. She and Sens. Laxalt and Chic Hecht (R-NV) back an alternate 137,000 acre Nevada wilderness bill.

The proposed Great Basin National Park and Preserve would take the place of the one square mile Lehman Caves National Monument, established 1922, and the Humboldt National Forest's Wheeler Peak Scenic Area. Hunting in the preserve and grazing in both the park and preserve would continue under Park Service administration.

Support for a park is strong in the Nevada tourism industry, which wants an antidote to the state's image as a nuclear testing range where gambling casinos are the only attraction. It is feared that as long as Nevada remains the only western state without a national park, potential visitors will stay away.

Chambers of commerce in Ely, Nevada and Delta, Utah see their communities as gateways to a Great Basin park and hope for a possible westward extension of Interstate 70. The park is considered the centerpiece of a "Silver Circle" of Great Basin points of interest.

Dr. Robert Starr Waite and Forest Service Ely District Ranger Paul DeMeule.

Dr. Waite regards park status as the only appropriate form of recognition for the unique natural features found in the Snake Range. Wheeler Peak is a place where a hiker can traverse five ecological life zones within five miles, and the seven peaks in the proposed park hold mountain lakes, trout streams, an impressive natural arch and significant arcaeological sites. Wheeler Cirque holds a small remnant glacier

Several thriving bristlecone pine forests, which have suffered damage over the years from illegal woodcutting, would be preserved. Bristlecone Ridge was once the site of the world's oldest living tree, which was removed by researchers in the 1960's. A cross-section of the 4,000 year old bristlecone is on display at the Lehman Caves visitor center.

The limestone caves of the area, some of which are located outside the national monument, are considered unique because of their metamorphic rock and the rare cave formations, such as shields and helictites, that seem to be associated with it.

A group of local residents oppose park designation because they see it conflicting with traditional mining and grazing land uses in White Pine County. Six grazing permittees would be affected, and they fear future attempts to phase out grazing in the park. Although no active mines would be included in the park, there are over 400 mining claims in the area and some people hope for a revival in the market for beryllium and tungsten that could reopen some mines.

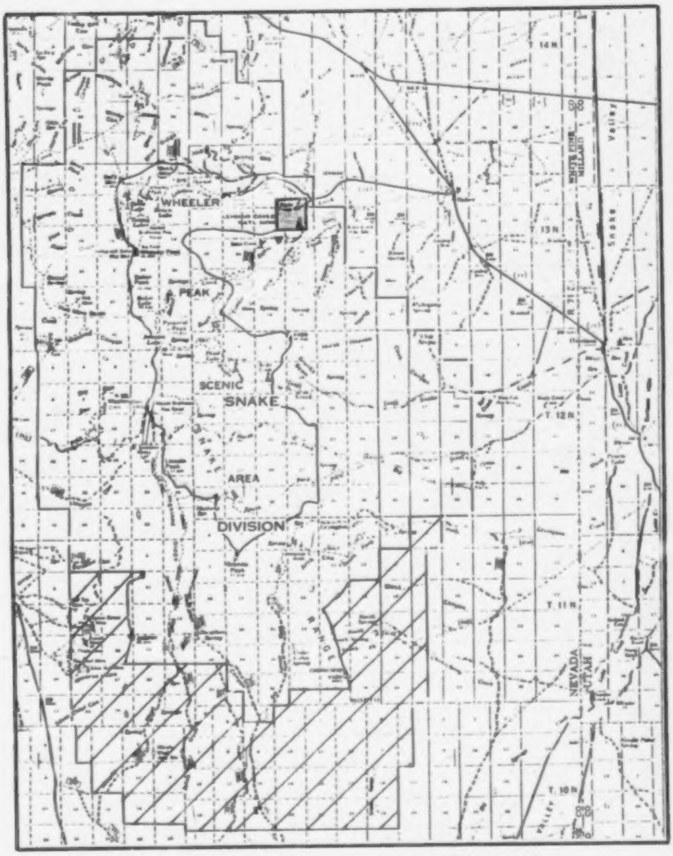
Baker, Nevada rancher Joe Griggs, a member of the Ely-based anti-park group Free Enterprise Associates, thinks that the park is being oversold by supporters like Dr. Waite. In a hearing last month before the State Multiple Use Advisory Committee on Federal Lands, he questioned the capacity of the area, which already has developed campgrounds and paved roads, to absorb the additional visitation without overcrowding and strict regulations.

Griggs and others also resent the implication that Forest Service management is not good enough for the Wheeler Peak area, and point out the success of multiple use management in providing for commercial activities, such as pine nut harvesting, firewood cutting, small-scale gold prospecting and the state fish hatchery on Snake Creek, that might be curtailed by the Park Service.

The Wheeler Peak Scenic Area is clearly a source of pride for the Humboldt National Forest and especially for Ely District Ranger Paul DeMeule. While the Forest Service can take no official position on the advisability of a Great Basin National Park, there can be no doubt that the agency would prefer keeping the area as it is or else designating a wilderness or national recreation area that would remain part of the national forest. The Humboldt draft forest plan will contain a wilderness recommendation for Wheeler Peak.

At last month's hearing, DeMeule kidded Lehman Caves Superintendent Al Hendricks about the rivalry of their two agencies, dating back to the early days of the National Park System-- which grew largely by acquiring the most scenic tracts of national forest land. Both men work together closely to provide visitor services in the Wheeler Peak area, but DeMeule wondered out loud if his friend was already repainting the Forest Service trucks with NPS insignia.

Park proponents such as John Lampros, chairman of the White Pine County Commission, maintain that only national park status will produce the sought-for tourism growth in the area. National parks receive far more free publicity than other recreation areas, according to Farrell Hansen of the White Pine Chamber of Commerce, and the number of visitors to Lehman Caves has risen recently just as a result of speculation in the media about a park.



The Great Basin National Park and Preserve in the House-passed bill includes the existing Lehman Caves National Monument (shaded area) and adjoining Forest Service Wheeler Peak Scenic Area. The cross-hatched area would be managed as a national preserve.

The rock glacier in Wheeler Cirque is the remnant of Nevada's largest glacier.
USFS / Robert S. Waite

Baker Creek, where national park designation would affect existing grazing permits.
USFS / Robert S. Waite

Ely Mayor Barlow White countered the park opponents at the hearing by saying that the county's economy has declined in the last 25 years, with the loss of 2,168 residents, and that the loss of jobs in the mining and grazing sectors was the reason. He favors a park as a way to strengthen tourism.

While Ely-area residents are divided, a statewide public opinion survey of 2,000 randomly-selected Nevadans, conducted by the state division of state parks, has found 84% in favor of a Great Basin National Park.

With that kind of public pressure, both Rep. Vucanovich and Sen. Laxalt have agreed in principle to support a park -- though at last report their preference was for the smallest possible proposal of about 40,000 acres. Some kind of agreement with Reid may resolve the issue.

Dr. Waite believes that this time the decision on a Great Basin National Park is crucial. "It must go through this year or we won't get it."

The park debate may be far from over. Vucanovich, Laxalt and Hecht remain opposed to Reid's proposal. All three of Utah's representatives voted against the bill on April 30. Reps. Jim Hansen and Howard Nielson spoke against the measure in a mixture of anti-park rhetoric and objections to the way the bill was pushed through committee without the support of Vucanovich even though the acreage involved lies entirely in her Second Congressional District.

But despite claims that designation is being rushed through Congress, the proposed Great Basin National Park and Preserve is clearly the leading candidate to be the first new national park in the lower 48 states in 15 years. It has been recommended in study after study for the ecological significance of the area, the unique limestone cave system (largest in the West), the wildlife values for deer and bighorn sheep, the suitability of Wheeler Peak as a tourist attraction.

The evidence, in the choice between conservation under the Forest Service and preservation under Park Service management, weighs heavily in favor of preservation.

"The 200,000-square-mile area known as the Great Basin is not represented in the National Park System," says Rep. Reid. "The need for this park not only continues but is greater than it has ever been."

Senator HECHT. Thank you. It is always good to see you, Doctor. Let us go right on. Mr. Darwin Lambert.

STATEMENT OF DARWIN LAMBERT, LURAY, VA

Mr. LAMBERT. I have been enjoying the Wheeler Peak area ever since I was a boy. In the 1950's, I had a part in originating the actually first Great Basin National Park proposal that was a small previous proposal, but it did not intend to represent the Great Basin.

I am a bit concerned here. I know there have been three different rather heavy studies of this area by the Park Service, by the Government, by the Department of the Interior, and we seem to have almost none of the results of their studies before us.

I am really quite impressed, or I should say tremendously impressed by the ability of you and Senator Laxalt to put almost all the truly outstandingly known, ones that are known, points of interest in 44,000 acres. I think it is tremendous, and I hope the park is established, and I hope that all of those 44,000 acres are in it. But plus some other things which I will try to put reason behind.

The primary function of a National Park—I just wish there had been a lot of witnesses from the Park Service with all their information. They have vast amounts. The Park System is an inspirational and recreational resource. It is also to a great degree an educational resource, and it has a primary function as a Great Basin National Park where you assign a responsibility to the agency by giving them an area of that name.

The Great Basin is an area which has, we talked about 19 themes awhile ago, but to put it in a nutshell there are really 3 themes. The Great Basin is a place from which the streams do not reach the ocean. It is an area of interior drainage.

The Great Basin is a place with all these 300 mountain ranges that are created by a block vault system. You have high sharp mountain ranges and broad, rather level valleys.

The third main characteristic of the Great Basin is this tremendous diversity of vegetation from the lowland on up to the Arctic tundra, the area above timberline.

You have got a beautiful park, a beautiful area in the 44,000 acres, but you do not reach out to the essence of any of these three themes. The block faults are out farther, primarily out farther on the edge. The place to drain is down some, as pointed out here maybe sarcastically, we need an alluvial fan. We need a sink hole. We need a dry lake, or an alkali flat.

Now maybe you cannot get it inside the area, but you could get it as a detached unit to give to the Park Service, and again it would be already Federal land and not private property that needs to be bought.

Well, I have got a map with my written statement.

Senator HECHT. Yes, it will be a part of the record.

Mr. LAMBERT. The map, and my written statement will be in, because I am just going hastily on the high points.

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

Mr. LAMBERT. When the study was made by the National Park Service in the 1950's, one of the principal men doing the studying was a Dr. Adolph Murie, and he recognized what we people of the Great Basin had long realized that you go up a canyon to enjoy the Great Basin Mountains, you go up the canyon. OK, we left out Snake Canyon. We need Snake Canyon, Mr. Chairman, all the way to the edge of the Forest Service area to represent that full sweep of Great Basin vegetation.

We need the Mount Washington cliffs. Your mines can continue if they have to, but the way that thing is set up you mind from down under in the bottom of Pole Canyon. You mill down there. You do not up on this platform——

Senator HECHT. Excuse me. I will have to ask you to summarize. Your whole statement will be a part of the record.

Mr. LAMBERT. Yes, sir. One more little bit to finish this up.

Senator HECHT. Finish up the sentence.

Mr. LAMBERT. The plateau up there where the great bristlecone forests are is rather covered with mining claims, but the tunnel goes in underneath and we need those cliffs.

I think the essence of what I have said is evident. I do not need to summarize.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Lambert follows:]

Statement of Darwin Lambert
to Senate Committee Hearing in Washington on 7/18/86
in Relation to S.2506
for Establishing
Great Basin National Park, Nevada

I'm not representing any organization or agency here today, though I've been cooperating with National Parks & Conservation Association in Washington and with White Pine Chamber of Commerce at Ely, Nevada, and have had informal contact with people in the Federal and Nevada State governments. My testimony grows primarily from personal experience and study. I enjoyed Mt. Wheeler as a boy. In the 1950s I helped originate the first proposal for a "Great Basin National Park" as such, and in those years I explored this Wheeler Country quite thoroughly--by car and a jeep pickup with a horse in back, by horse-packing and backpacking, often camping out alone. My pertinent experience includes positions as chamber of commerce manager at Ely, as Nevada state legislator, as editor of Ely Daily Times, as president of a Great Basin National Park Association with members in 17 states, also 24 years as a trustee of NPCA meeting in Washington, five years as chairman or member of Nevada Board of Economic Development, and 22 years as a freelance writer dealing mostly with nature and conservation. I've visited most of our country's national parks.

Much has been published about the proposed Great Basin park during the last 30 years--in conservation and scientific journals and elsewhere --and I assume this Committee has access to as much of this material as members or staff want to read. I assume, further, that other witnesses are discussing scientific facts and recreational potential, ranching, mining and hunting, and the economic pros and cons. My aim is to discuss the function of a Great Basin National Park and what acreage and features are needed to perform this function properly and thus serve the hundreds of thousands of the land's owners who will come to visit.

The suitability of the South Snake Range to serve this purpose has been nationally accepted ever since April 1959 when the appropriate Advisory Board of the Interior Department judged Wheeler and vicinity possessed abundantly the necessary qualifications. In August 1961 I testified for a Senate Committee here in favor of S. 1760. In January 1962 the full Senate passed that bill to establish a Great Basin National Park of 123,360 acres. The bill never came to a hearing or a vote in the House, but support for the idea never died either in Washington or in Nevada.

As you know, the National Park System is not only an inspirational and recreational resource but also a resource for education in America's natural and cultural heritage. The millions of people using it have continued to multiply until there's overcrowding that sometimes hampers the primary function. More places of suitable quality have been needed at intervals.

Ideally, the system includes a superlative example of each and every distinctive geographic region in our country. The Great Basin has long been known around the world for its unusual, even unique, characteristics: It's a place where the rain and snow and streams do not drain into an ocean but disappear into the ground. The region's basin-and-range topography is block-faulted into more than a hundred sharp mountain ranges alternating with almost-level valleys. The land has an astonishing diversity of plant and animal communities--from shadscale and cactus "deserts" up through sagebrush and several zones of different forests to Arctic-like tundra above timberline. The Wheeler Country's top-notch illustrations of these three Great Basin "stories" should be dominant in determining the park's boundaries.

It so happens that by serendipitous fortune the Wheeler Country goes beyond the call of Great Basin duty. An example of the serendipity is Lehman Caves, long a national monument. Another example is the big Lexington Arch. Such bonuses deserve also to influence the boundary--as the Nevada Senators have recognized in presenting this bill. Many other features offer bonuses too. The great peak itself, towering to 13,063 feet, is superbly spectacular. There's no other mountain so high all the way north to Canada or all the way south to Mexico. To the west its height is reached only at the Nevada-California border. To the east, there's no peak as high until we pass Utah's Wasatch Range and reach the Uintas near Colorado.

In the old days of unpolluted air, we believed we could see 300 miles in every direction from Wheeler Peak--to the Sierras in California and to Mt. Timpanogas and beyond in Utah. Even today the Great Basin spreads out 360 degrees around the hiker to the hazy joining of earth and sky. Such vast panoramas are, of course, part of the Great Basin duty, unifying the basic story, but they're among the greatest scenic views of the whole planet and thus have serendipitous quality as well.

The glacier (or, as some prefer, glacieret) in Wheeler's northeast cirque is another instance of serendipity--flowing ice in the center of one of our country's dryest regions. I've stood precariously on the rim of a crevasse there and helped a geologist measure the depth between walls of blue ice more than 110 feet down. Geologists get enthusiastic also about a slow-flowing mass of quartzite boulders below the ice glacier's snout, saying it's a rock glacier, a rare phenomenon. The active glacial carving, along with dramatically scenic evidence of past glacial carving in high parts of the Snake Range, including six glacial lakes, lend magnificence and extra meaning to the Great Basin stories.

Farther down the cirque on glacial moraine are beautifully gnarled and wind-sculptured bristlecone pines, part of the biological story of the Great Basin where this species produces the world's oldest living individuals. A bonus in Wheeler was the world champion of ancient age, found 22 years ago, checked and double-checked by leading dendrochronologists to be the very oldest tree ever discovered anywhere, having been a seedling before the great pyramids of Egypt were built. An eminent ecologist, Dr. Adolph Murie, while studying the Snake Range for the National Park Service, said the bristlecone forests would by themselves justify a national park. Accompanied as they are by the remarkable display of other life forms from Sonoran Desert to Arctic-Alpine--thousands of north-south miles packed inside ten miles here--they immeasurably enhance the biological story.

With this background, I'll discuss the boundary. The national park and its visitors, I'm sure, could make good use of the whole national forest section, but there are other and prior uses that should be honored, either in setting the boundary or through special provisions such as are in S. 2506 now, or both. It's apparent that the park isn't going to be established at the large size many people, including me, have dreamed. With this testimony I'm presenting a map suggesting the minimum of additions--to the area now called for in S. 2506--that would enable the park to perform its full Great Basin function.

I recognize that a lot of information, some of which I may not have, and a lot of careful thought went into the present S. 2506 plan. The resulting park would be filled with magnificent high country but would fall short in illustrating all three of the basic Great Basin stories and in providing the kind and size of recreational space the park's visitors will want and need.

The most popular way to enjoy Great Basin ranges is to go up the canyons for sightseeing, picnicking, camping, wildlife observation, fishing, nature study, photography, hiking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, or just plain relaxing. As Dr. Murie pointed out, Wheeler Country has more than a dozen splendid canyons, each different from the others. "In these canyons," he wrote, "various types of beauty may be found--from the spectacular, such as perpendicular cliffs of a thousand feet or more of rock exposure, to the simple, peaceful beauty of a creek bordered by graceful water birches. One may pass through sylvan glades of firs, spruce, and dense stands of aspens. Throughout most of the area the rocks are of special interest, and add significantly to the esthetic appeal of the canyons."

Lehman Creek is adequately taken care of by the eastern boundary as given in S. 2506. There's a fair amount of Baker Creek, but another mile would help. The rest of the canyons are cut short or left out. Many people enjoy Snake Creek most of all, and the great Basin picture would be brought much nearer completion if this whole canyon were included from the lowland at the present national forest boundary to Emerald Lake near Pyramid Peak and a not-yet-studied occurrence of impressive bristlecones. "All along Snake Creek," Dr. Murie wrote, "one is tempted to stop and take pictures. Just as one enters the canyon two narrow protruding rock walls, but a short distance apart, jut upward. They are similar in shape but are different rock structures. The darker one has a small arch on the skyline." Murie considered the whole ten miles a wonderful experience and most people seem to feel so too. There are tall ponderosa pines almost six feet in diameter, a majestic overhanging cliff with bristlecones on its top and pinyons at its base--also extensive stands of mountain mahogany, crowds of white-trunked aspens, then fir, spruce, colorful manzanita, limber pines, a bleak yet awesome timberline. From Arctic-type tundra there's a summarizing view back down-canyon to the desert, rounding out this Great Basin experience.

The overhanging cliff marks a quite specific problem spot on the S. 2506 east boundary, about halfway down. The clifftop, labeled VABM 10,842, is the culmination of a long, high, sharp, unnamed ridge that has the most unbelievable bristlecone pines I've ever found. Many are living dwarfs a millennium or more old, yet hardly taller than a man. They're wind-eroded, often flattened instead of round in the trunk, some suggesting bacon strips in serpentine curves. The lifeline is often no more than an inch of bark along the narrow lower side of the off-vertical trunks. The present boundary line, according to the map accompanying S. 2506, leaves the climax peak of this extra-special bristlecone show outside the park.

I won't comment now on every small addition suggested on my map. I'd like to mention one suggestion that couldn't be placed on the map: The "no water to the ocean" characteristic of the Great Basin could be dramatically completed by adding to the park as a detached unit some suitable playa (or "dry lake" or "alkali flat") on nearby BLM land where the water sinks into the land. If this playa happened to be surrounded by the vegetation characteristic of the very lowest "desert," this would effectively complete the Great Basin biological story.

Now, I'll discuss the western boundary a bit. On the sweeping mountainside leading up to Wheeler and Baker peaks from Spring Valley, there are the small, quite-different canyons of Single, Pine and Ridge creeks. The old quartzite of that dramatic rise to the great peak isn't noted for mineralization, so has no claims that appear in any information I've seen. This place, though, is a crucial chapter of the Great Basin geological story, about block-faulting, and as such definitely belongs inside the park.

Around Mt. Washington there's a tough problem, and I realize the Nevada Senators have worked to solve it--as they have to solve the smaller problem around Lexington Arch on the east. Mt. Washington and vicinity have quite a bit of the Wheeler Country's most magnificent rock scenery and the largest and most vigorous bristlecone forest, most of which are left out of the park by S. 2506 as now written. I feel as strongly about those thousand-foot cliff-steps, three such great steps as I recall, and their white marble sculptures with twisted bristlecones clinging, and about the more massive bristlecones above them and the canyons below, as I do about Snake Canyon on the east.

I realize there are patented mining claims and other claims held by location. I regret the assessment-work requirement that leads to bulldozer gashes among the highland's bristlecones, but I don't blame the claim holders. I've staked claims in Nevada myself. I recommend legislation to exempt claims inside national parks from the bulldozer-type of assessment work.

Mining of the deep-down ore may someday become economically feasible --who can know for sure?--but I'm quite sure it's a mistake to suppose there would be a mill up that jeep trail that's hardly more than a ladder on the cliffs, up in the bristlecone forest where even a little water is rare. The mill, if one is ever to operate, would be located below the cliffs, where I've left space outside the park line, and almost certainly the mining would be done from there too. Those cliffs and mysterious recesses--which you look up at from Lincoln Canyon, for instance--are not only magnificent but also another crucial part of the basin-and-range story the park should illustrate. In my opinion this portion of the park could tolerate whatever mining might prove possible, rather than do without this scenery and the dramatic part of the Great Basin story it so superbly illustrates. In fact, I've begun to see that some mining and some livestock grazing, in parts of the park, could actually enhance the presentation of the Great Basin to the public. These activities are illustrative of the cultural heritage which in reality blends almost everywhere nowadays with the natural heritage.

Let me say again, in concluding now, that the boundary I've drawn on the map does not represent the whole acreage I'd really like to see in the park but merely the minimum I think will enable the National Park Service to perform its proper function without wanting to apologize to the citizen-owners. Let me also express my deeply and long-held hope that a Great Basin National Park, doing justice to the Wheeler Country's tremendous inspirational, educational and recreational resources, will at last be established in 1986.

I thank the Nevada Senators and this Committee for the wise and hard work being done toward this nationally significant goal.

Darwin Lambert
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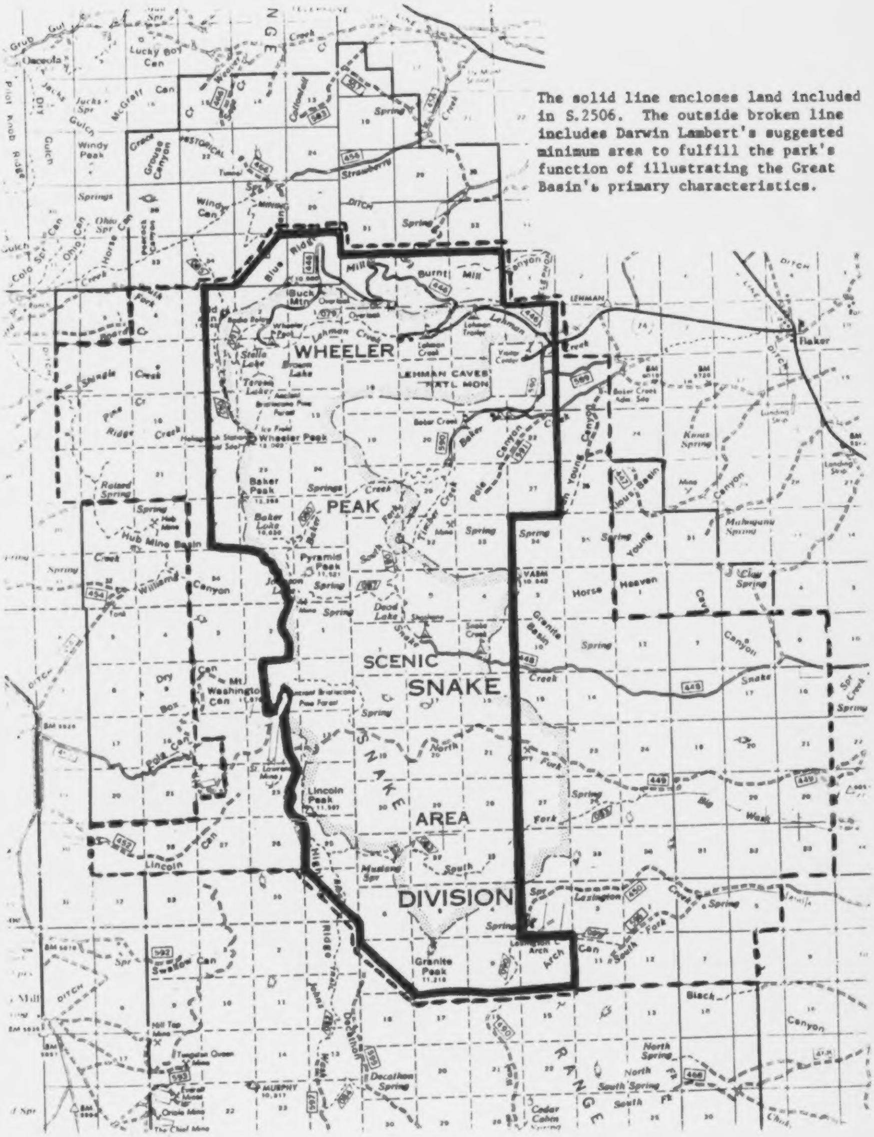
WHEELER
PEAK
SCENIC
SNAKE
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DIVISION
LEHMAN CAVES NAT'L MON
Wheeler Peak
Baker Peak
Pyramid Peak
Lincoln Peak
Granite Peak
Mt Washington
Buck Mtn
Stella Lake
Teresa Lake
Brown Lake
Baker Lake
Lehman Creek
Baker Creek
Snake Creek
Strawberry
Lucky Boy Can
Osceola
Windy Peak
Hub Mine Basin
Lexington Arch
Baker
LEHMAN
R A N G E

The solid line encloses land included in S.2506. The outside broken line includes Darwin Lambert's suggested minimum area to fulfill the park's function of illustrating the Great Basin's primary characteristics.

Senator HECHT. Thank you very much. I appreciate it.
Mr. George Lea.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE D. LEA, WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE, SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT, McLEAN, VA

Mr. LEA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am George Lea, a member and representative of the Society of Range Management. It is my pleasure and honor to present the following statement on behalf of the Society on S. 2506.

The Society is an international organization dedicated to helping people properly use and manage their rangeland resources of the world. Membership in the Society is open to everyone engaged in or interested in any aspect of the study, management, and use of rangelands.

The Society advocates and encourages multiple use management of both public and private rangelands for the production of the tangible and intangible values desired by society. National Park management of the public lands covered by S. 2506 would prohibit hunting, mineral development, and off-road vehicle use and restrictive measures on domestic livestock grazing. We understand that further restrictions tend to be phased in after establishment of a new National Park—that is, some uses that may be initially permitted may become more restrictive or prohibited over time.

Mr. Chairman, the Society is unaware of any resource condition in the area that requires increased protection or improvement that would necessitate a change of management agency. In fact, the current multiple-use management of the Forest Service and private ownership has protected the basic land resources, wild producing products, while generating conditions that may qualify the area for National Park consideration today. In addition, to our knowledge the local people of the area are quite happy with the current resource management efforts.

Section 3(f) of the proposed bill enables the Secretary of Agriculture to exchange grazing use in the Park for grazing use within the Humboldt National Forest. As we understand the situation in the Humbolt, all grazing use that is allowable has been allocated long ago making such an exchange unworkable without the development of surplus forage through expensive range development measures.

In conclusion, the Society for Range Management has found the best approach to rangeland management is to provide a mix of balanced uses. The best process to accomplish this is through a coordinated resource management and planning process currently being followed by the Forest Service in the area. We support the continuation of the current situation and the use of this planning process for multiple use resource allocation and subsequent management.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to be here.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Lea follows:]

SRM SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

STATEMENT BY THE SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT REGARDING S. 52506
"A BILL TO ESTABLISH A GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK"
BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, RESERVED WATER AND
RESOURCE CONSERVATION

I am George D. Lea, a member and representative of the Society for Range Management. It is my pleasure and honor to present the following testimony in behalf of the Society on S. 52506, a Bill to establish a Great Basin National Park in Nevada. The Society is an international organization dedicated to helping people properly use and manage the rangeland resources of the world. Membership in the Society is open to everyone engaged in or interested in any aspect of the study, management or use of rangeland. Rangeland is a broad category of land, comprising 40-45 percent of the land area of the United States and producing a variety of resources beneficial to man. Range resources include both tangible and intangible products: grazeable forage, wildlife habitat, water, natural beauty, recreational opportunities, minerals, wood products, germ plasam for domestication and breeding, open space, and areas for ecological studies of natural systems.

The Society advocates and encourages multiple use management of both public and private rangelands for the production of the tangible and intangible

/continued

values desired by society. National Park management of the public lands covered by S. 52506 would prohibit hunting, mineral development, and off-road vehicle uses and restrictive measures on domestic livestock grazing. We understand that further restrictions tend to be phased in after establishment of a new national park. That is, some uses that may be initially permitted may become more restrictive or prohibited over time.

The Society is unaware of any resource condition in the area that requires increased protection or improvement that would necessitate a change of management agency. In fact the current multiple use management under Forest Service and private ownership has protected the basic land resources, producing products, while generating conditions that may qualify the area for national park consideration today. In addition, to our knowledge the local people of the area are quite happy with the current resource management efforts.

Section 3 (f) of the proposed bill enables the Secretary of Agriculture to exchange grazing use in the Park for grazing use within the Humbolt National Forest. As we understand the situation in the Humbolt, all grazing use that is allowable has been allocated long ago making such an exchange unworkable without the development of surplus forage through expensive range development measures.

The Society for Range Management has found the best approach to rangeland management is to provide a mix of balanced uses. The best process to accomplish this is through a coordinated resource management and planning process currently being followed by the Forest Service in the area. We support the continuance of the current situation and the use to this planning process for multiple use resource allocation and subsequent management.

Senator Hᴇᴄʜᴛ. And we thank you very much.

Mr. Charles Callison.

STATEMENT OF CHARLES H. CALLISON, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC LANDS INSTITUTE, NATIONAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

Mr. Cᴀʟʟɪsᴏɴ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am testifying today not only for the Public Lands Institute and the Natural Resources Defense Council, which is this Nation's largest environmental law organization with more than 40,000 members, but also in behalf of Mr. Charles S. Watson, Jr., director of the Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association whose headquarters are in Carson City.

Mr. Chairman, we of course endorse 2506 as far as it goes. The trouble with it is, as has been pointed out here by fellow witnesses, it does not take advantage of the last best opportunity to create an adequate Great Basin Park. It would, Mr. Chairman, create a token park, and one that is unbecoming to the State of Nevada which has a reputation for thinking big and doing things properly.

Respectfully, we urge the subcommittee to lay aside S. 2506 and report instead H.R. 3302, the House-passed bill that also is pending on your committee's calendar. The House bill would establish a decent-sized national park of 129,500 acres to be adjoined by a national preserve of 45,500 acres. S. 2506 proposes a park of only 44,000 acres and no preserve. Even the acreage in this House bill is minimal.

NORA—Mr. Watson's organization—and other conservation organizations have always supported a Great Basin National Park of the dimensions proposed in 1956 by Darwin Lambert who is sitting here at my left. I would like to say that I feel honored to be a member of the same panel with Mr. Lambert. When he made his proposal, along with Mr. Weldon Heald, another leading conservationist, Mr. Lambert was editor of the Ely Times. Their plan would have preserved and protected 240,000 acres.

Mr. Watson, a geologist, recalls that the so-called mineral wealth of the Mount Saint Washington—of the Mount Washington-Lincoln Canyon consists of a single pegmatite lens with approximately 100 hederite crystals sprinkled in clear quartz. That laughably is the strategic beryllium deposit that the Kennecott Co. cited to kill the original Great Basin Park bill 25 years ago.

Passage of 2506 by the Senate would create such a divergence with the House that a conference committee agreement would be highly unlikely. Passage of a Senate park bill without the 11 new wilderness areas on National Forest lands that are also included in H.R. 3302 would likely result in the same conference stalemate.

Respectfully, we hope the members of this subcommittee will not lend themselves to a strategy designed to assure that neither a National Park nor a new wilderness will be established in Nevada by this Congress.

I thank you for the opportunity to express our views which, Mr. Chairman, are strongly held.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Callison follows:]

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July 16th, 1986

Statement by Charles H. Callison, Director, Public Lands Institute, a Division of the Natural Resources Defense Council

To the Subcommittee on Public Lands, Reserved Water and Resource Conservation:

I am testifying today not only for the Public Lands Institute and the Natural Resources Defense Council, but also at the request of, and in behalf of, Mr. Charles S. Watson, Jr., director of the Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association whose headquarters are in Carson City.

We are pleased that the subcommittee is taking up legislation to establish a Great Basin National Park. Such a park will fill a conspicuous omission in the National Park System. It is long overdue. In a way it is incomprehensible that more than a century after Congress established Yellowstone National Park -- during that 114 years our National Park System has grown to encompass some 335 areas and 79 million acres -- no area has been added to that system to represent and preserve the remarkable geology, ecology, scenery and biota that typify the Great Basin that lies between the Sierra Nevadas and the Rocky Mountains.

We of course endorse S. 2506 as far as it goes. The trouble with it is that it doesn't take advantage of the last, best opportunity to create an adequate Great Basin Park. Respectfully we urge the subcommittee to lay aside S. 2506 and report instead H.R. 3302, the House-passed bill that also is pending on your committee calendar.

The House bill would establish a decent-sized National Park of 129,500 acres to be adjoined by a National Preserve of 45,500 acres. S. 2506 proposes a park of only 44,000 acres and no preserve. Even the acreage in this House bill is minimal. NORA and other conservation organizations have always supported a Great Basin National Park of the dimensions

PUBLIC LANDS INSTITUTE IS A DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL, INC.

proposed in 1956 by Darwin Lambert, then editor of the Ely Times, and Weldon Heald, another leading conservationist. Their plan would have preserved and protected 240,000 acres.

Mr. Watson, a geologist, recalls that the so-called "mineral wealth" of the Mt. Washington-Lincoln Canyon consists of a single pegmatite "lens" with approximately 100 Hederite crystals sprinkled in clear quartz. That, laughably, is the "strategic beryllium deposit" that the Kennecott Company cited to kill the original Great Basin Park bill 25 years ago.

Passage of S. 2506 by the Senate would create such a divergence with the House that a conference committee agreement would be highly unlikely. Passage of a Senate park bill without the eleven new Wilderness areas on National Forest lands also included in H.R. 3302 would likely result in the same conference stalemate. Respectfully, we hope the members of this subcommittee will not lend themselves to a strategy designed to assure that neither a National Park or new Wilderness will be established in Nevada by this Congress.

I thank you for the opportunity to express our views, which are strongly held.

Senator HECHT. And I thank you for testifying.
Mr. Robert Jacobsen.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT R. JACOBSEN, LURAY, VA

Mr. JACOBSEN. Mr. Chairman, my name is Robert R. Jacobsen. I would like, if I may, to abridge and summarize my comments to help you save time here.

Senator HECHT. Please do.

Mr. JACOBSEN. Although I currently live in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, I am a former resident of White Pine County, NV, where I lived and served from August 1963 to August 1964 as a superintendent of Lehman Caves National Monument. I recently retired from a full career with the National Park Service in the operations and management of national parks, my last assignment being superintendent of Shenandoah National Park.

At an earlier time I served as the chief of the Branch of New Areas for the National Park Service during the time of the great expansion in the late sixties and early seventies. But my job at Lehman Caves as superintendent, and this was 20 years ago, was primarily that of safeguarding the underground and surface resources of the monument, and in interpreting the story of these resources to the visiting public.

But working as I did in the shadow of Wheeler Peak, and living and socializing with the Bakers, and the Griggs, and the Gondors, and the Dierdons, and the Robisons, I learned that there is a much larger story than the story of the underground and the surface of 640 miles. It is the story of the Great Basin itself.

The people who came to Lehman Caves were yearning to learn, and it is a fascinating story, not just the story of the bugs and the birds and the bushes, but the story of the geology of the area, the hydrology, the ecology, and equally although it has received very little attention today is the human history, the story that can be told in the Great Basin of the early Indians, of the efforts of early explorers, the story of historic trails and travel routes, and then of the settlement of the area by the people who came either to find peace carrying religious banners, or trying to wrest a living from this lonesome landscape. This included the prospectors, the miners, and the stockmen.

I knew from the questions that were raised to me at Lehman Caves that the public was interested in these things. They were fascinated in what we were able to tell from our small vantage point. I know that if this story of the Great Basin were to be told, that it would greatly enhance the image of the area from that of, as I say, a lonesome landscape and desolation, to that of a fascinating portion of our land surface.

My plea to you today is that as the boundaries are drawn, and I think these can be expanded with only minimal damage to special interest groups, that you leave the National Park Service with a manageable unit or units; that you allow space for the future developments, for visitor use which surely will come to such an area; and include as many of the natural environments and historic seam areas as is possible, both for the safeguarding of these resources, but also to permit a credible interpretation and story-telling so that the visiting public can be told the overall story of the Great Basin.

I appreciate the chance to be here.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Jacobsen follows:]

Statement of Robert R. Jacobsen
before the Subcommittee on Public Lands, Reserved Water
and Resource Conservation concerning the proposed
Great Basin National Park, Nevada
July 18, 1986

Mr. Chairman - My name is Robert R. Jacobsen. Although I am retired and currently live in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, I am a former resident of White Pine County, Nevada - where I lived and served from August 1963 to August of 1964 as the superintendent of Lehman Caves National Monument.

You will recognize that period as an earlier time when the Wheeler Peak area was seriously considered for designation as a Great Basin National Park. Indeed, during that time this body recommended and passed a bill for its establishment.

I was a staunch supporter of a Great Basin National Park then - as I am now - for these two reasons. The first was, and is, to better safeguard that extraordinary sample of the Great Basin's natural and cultural resources, which are not adequately protected elsewhere in the public domain and, secondly, to provide a totally credible platform from which the fascinating stories of the Great Basin region might be collected and shared with the American public. I could not and can not think of a better way to accomplish these objectives than by designating the Wheeler Peak area as a national park, and by transferring its management and operation to the National Park Service.

Living and working within the shadow of Wheeler Peak, as we did, and living and working with the people and the communities that neighbor the area, gave my family and me a real appreciation and understanding and love for the Great Basin and its blend of natural, cultural and human resources and opportunities. Narratives of the area are unique, whether the story line is geology, hydrology, ecology or human history; and the more familiar that we became with its individual components - to include the stories of its formation and exploration and settlement, and the efforts of past and present generations to find peace or to wrest a living from its mountain ranges and broad valleys - the more aware we became of the real need and the exciting opportunity that exists to gather, compile and share this information with others. Surely there is no better way to accomplish such a task than by identifying and designating a notably special portion of the Great Basin as a national park.

The Wheeler Peak area - through numerous studies of the Great Basin - has emerged as the outstanding candidate. For not only does it have the natural endowments to be the exemplar representative of the Great Basin region, but it contains sufficient remnants and the not yet disqualifying scars of early and contemporary human use that would also allow the great sagas of the prospectors and miners and stockmen to be told.

One might logically ask, in that the Wheeler Peak area is already in federal ownership, "What would be the benefit of giving it national park status and of transferring its management to the National Park Service?" I would answer that three reasons come immediately to mind:

1. The "national park" designation, and all that it stands for, is essential to adequately safeguard its included resources. Being a national park serves to notify the nation and the world that this is a very special place that deserves special care and attention, and that a visit to this remote area is well worth one's time and effort.

2. The U. S. Forest Service is ill-prepared, through its lack of professional staffing, to undertake the necessary historical and sociological research and the resource preservation that is necessary to tell the story of the Great Basin. Furthermore, it does not possess the environmental and aesthetic sensitivity that is necessary to safeguard and interpret the natural and cultural resources of the area.

The latter portion of my last point was clearly demonstrated by an incident that occurred on Wheeler Peak in 1964, when the Forest Service willfully cut down a Bristlecone Pine that we all believed might be the oldest living thing on the entire Earth. I remember the occasion well - as I stepped across my jurisdictional boundary at Lehman Caves to intercept the USFS saw crew that had been sent from Ely to cut the tree, and to explain the outrage that their action would be. Although the tree was not cut that day, and the decision was referred to a higher level for review, the Forest Service subsequently cut it down. And it proved to be, as all of us had expected, centuries older than any other living being yet discovered. Its 4,844 annual rings made it more than two thousand years older than the oldest living Giant Sequoia trees in California.

3. The National Park Service is eminently well qualified to undertake the necessary task - as the work that is needed conforms precisely with the mission that this agency has been performing with distinction for 70 years. Furthermore, through its long term management of Lehman Caves National Monument, it already possesses an onsite presence and a base from which a Great Basin National Park might begin its operations.

I greatly appreciate this opportunity to come before you and to speak in behalf of this exceptional area which means so much to me. It lies within a unique region which richly deserves to have this small portion of its unusual resources set aside and preserved and interpreted so the fascinating and important stories of the Great Basin can be told.

Senator HECHT. And thank you. Sorry you moved out of our State. I wish you would have stayed.

Let us go right on to the next panel, and I thank this panel.

Ms. Sarah Locke, Mr. Benjamin Parks, and Stephen Richardson.

Ms. Locke, would you like to start, please.

STATEMENT OF SARAH A. LOCKE, ELY, NV

Ms. LOCKE. I am Sarah Locke, and I want to thank you for being able to come here and express my views.

My family has had some connection with mining and ranching in Nevada since 1863, and I oppose a Great Basin National Park of any size. I firmly believe in multiple use and free enterprise, and a national park is in direct contrast with these principles.

Forest Service management has much more to offer in the form of recreation than a national park. A national park will restrict or eliminate many present types of recreation. Trapping, hunting, and woodcutting will cease immediately, and many people like to combine these activities with their family outings.

Target practice will also be excluded since loaded firearms are banned from within the boundaries of a park. The off-road use of motorcycles and four-wheelers will be prohibited. At present, the only areas off-limits to this activity is around the Stella and Teresa Lake areas.

Many people, especially children, enjoy picking wildflowers, pretty rocks, and driftwood to take home from an outing. Some people look at prospecting as a hobby. These activities will also be halted.

Camping will be affected by many restrictions. Fires built at campsites will have to be fueled with wood or charcoal brought from home. At this time, camping is allowed anywhere within the forest. In a park, camping and picnicking will be limited to the developed campsites. At present there are four developed campgrounds and one semideveloped campground open. The developed grounds are comprised of 92 camp units, 2 picnic units, running water, picnic tables, fire pits, and toilets. The semideveloped campgrounds have eight camp units, picnic tables, fire pits, and outhouses. I am not sure that the semideveloped campgrounds would meet Park Service criteria for campgrounds.

There are an additional 20 semideveloped camp units at Baker Creek that are opened during times of heavy use. Since there is a need for these additional units at times now, it would be reasonable to believe that even a small increase in visitation will create a need to reserve camp units in advance. Primitive camping at favorite spots within the park will be nonexistent.

Backpackers will probably be limited to the established trails, and at present there are no campsites on these trails. The use of horses on these trails will also most likely be controlled.

Presently most recreation in the forest is free. If the Great Basin National Park is established we will have to pay just to sit within the boundaries. The management of the whole Snake Division Forest is assigned to just one forest ranger, while the Lehman Caves National Monument employs 12 to 14 people for its one-square-mile. How many more will be needed to enforce the restrictions of a national park?

The area now offers a greater amount of recreation without much cost. Why can we not leave it the way it is? The issue in White Pine County is not whether a portion of the Great Basin should be represented in the National Park System. Rather, it is the false hope that a national park will bail us out of our economic recession.

I was told by two park proponents that the reason I opposed a park was that my family had not suffered enough, that the Federal Government could come in with a national park and the money to establish and maintain it and rid White Pine County of its economic problems. I do not believe this.

First, my family has felt the problems of the county along with everyone else. However, we have used our imaginations and ambitions to get over the rough spots and are beginning to see improvements within the economy of the area.

Second, I do not believe that we should expect the Federal Government to solve our financial problems by adding to their own. The issue on the national level should deal with how we are going to take care of the parks we already have, not how we are going to create a new one.

We need to realize that we cannot afford to tie up new areas in the National Park System, whether it be in Nevada or somewhere else. Multiple use is constantly producing new wealth which promotes growth and expansion of our economy. Establishment of a national park in producing multiple-use land areas results in a loss to the national economy of this new wealth production. It adds to the national deficit.

Multiple use is capable of preserving the Great Basin and other public lands while giving free enterprise a chance to work and create new wealth for the Nation.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Locke follows:]

Sarah A. Locke
Native Nevadan
July 12, 1986

First, I wish to thank you for this opportunity to express my views. I oppose a Great Basin National Park of any size. A past proposal took in most of Spring Valley including several ranches and operating mining claims. Any size park is too large and would eventually be expanded, taking in these areas that are now privately owned. Statistics prove that parks get bigger not smaller.

I firmly believe in multiple use and free enterprise, a national park is in direct contrast to these principles.

I do not understand why, in a time that our country's finances are in so much trouble, a new national park, with all it's expenses, is even being considered.

My family came to Nevada in 1863. I was named after my great-grandmother who was born in a covered wagon near Hiko, Nevada in 1868. My great-great-grandfather was George Ernst. He is noted as being the first to suggest to Adolph Sutro the idea of the famous Sutro Tunnel in Virginia City. He also conducted the first survery, locating the tunnel and shafts of the Sutro Tunnel. I could go on and on about my family in Nevada but the point I wish to make is we have been here a long time and love and respect the lands of Nevada.

I love Nevada for what it is and the heritage it has given me. It is the miner and rancher that have built Nevada. Some believe Nevada is nothing more than Reno and Las Vegas. I doubt the gambling towns would exist if there had never been a miner. It is a disgrace to our state that these people should be looked at as special interest groups that stand in the way of the few supporting a national park. Miners and ranchers are not special interest groups in Nevada. They are Nevada. They built Nevada and should be supported in their rights to livelihood.

It is my feeling that Nevada still holds on to the spirit of the pioneers. With so much of our state controlled under multiple use we have freedoms to be proud of. These lands are used, improved, and loved while also being protected through the management of BLM and the Forest Service. They should not be locked up for a few to look at. Anyone wishing to look is free to do so now.

Forest Service management has much more to offer in the form of recreation than a national park. A national park will restrict or elimnate many present types of recreation.

Trapping, hunting, and woodcutting will cease immediately. Many people like to combine these activities with family outings.

Target practice will also be excluded since loaded firearms are banned from within the boundaries of a park.

The off road use of motorcycles and fourwheelers will be prohibited. At present, the only area off limits to this activity is around the Stella and Teresa lake areas.

Many people, especially childern, enjoy picking wild flowers, pretty rocks, and driftwood to take home from an outing. Some people look at prospecting as a hobby. These activities will also be halted.

Camping will be effected by many restrictions. Fires built at campsites will have to be fueled with wood or charcoal brought from home. At this time, camping is allowed anywhere in the forest. In a park, camping and picnicing will be limited to developed campsites. At present, there are four developed campgrounds and one semi-developed campground open. The developed grounds are comprised of 92 camp units, 2 picnic units, running water, picnic tables, fire pits, and toilets. The semi-developed campground has 8 camp units, picnic tables, fire pits, and outhouses. I am not sure the semi-developed campground would meet Park Service campground criteria.

There are an additional 20 semi-developed camp units at Baker Creek that are opened during times of heavy use. Since there is a need for these additional units at times now, it would be reasonable to believe that even a small increase in visitation will create a need to reserve camp units in advance.

Primitive camping at favorite spots within the park will be non-existent.

If this park is consistent with others I've seen, many access roads will be blocked off, deemed as being unecessary or inappropriate for park preservation.

Backpackers will probably be limited to established trails. At present, there are not developed campsites on these trails. If camping is allowed on backpacking trips, it may require a permit. The use of horses on these trails will also most likely be controlled.

Presently, most recreation in the forest is free. If the Great Basin National Park is established we will have to pay just to set foot in the boundaries. The management of the whole Snake Division forest is assigned to just one forest ranger while the national monument employs 12 to 14 people to care for its' one square mile. How many more will be needed to enforce the restriction of a national park? The area now offers a greater amount of recreation without much cost. Why can't we leave it as it is?

The issue in White Pine County is not whether a portion of the Great Basin should be represented in the National Park System. Rather, it is the false hope that a national park will bail us out of our economic recession.

I was told by two park proponents that the reason I opposed a park was that my family hadn't suffered enough. That the federal government could come in with a national park and the money to establish and maintain it and rid White Pine County of its economic problems.

I do not believe this. First, my family has felt the problems of the county along with everyone else. However, we have used our imagations and ambitions to get over the rough spots and are beginning to see improvements in the economy of the area. Secondly, I do not believe we should expect the federal government to solve our financial problems by adding to their own.

The issue on a national level should be how are we going to take care of the parks we already have, not how are we going to create a new one. Why do we need a new park? When do we stop establishing new parks? What is the justification that we do not have enough now?

We need to realize that we can not afford to tie up new areas in the National Park System, whether it be in Nevada or somewhere else.

Multiple use is constantly producing new wealth which promotes the growth and expansion of our economy. Establishment of a national park in a producing multiple use land area results in a loss to the national economy of this new wealth production. It adds to the national deficit. In this day and age of Gramm-Rudman that is not a very popular idea.

Multiple use is capable of preserving the Great Basin and other public lands while giving free enterprise a chance to work and create new wealth for the nation. Isn't that what this country is all about?

Sarah A. Locke
1280 Ave L
Ely, NV 89301

Senator HECHT. Thank you. I enjoyed hearing you talk about your rich Nevada heritage.

Mr. Benjamin Parks.

STATEMENT OF BENJAMIN G. PARKS, WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE, NATIONAL INHOLDERS ASSOCIATION, WASHINGTON, DC

Mr. PARKS. I would like to thank the subcommittee for this opportunity to testify on S. 2506, a bill to create a Great Basin National Park. My name is Ben Parks. I am the Washington representative for the National Inholders Association. NIA has 13,000 members in 50 States and is the leading organization in the Nation which represents 1.2 million identified inholders.

Our association represents families and individuals who own land or equity interest in land within or adjacent to boundaries of federally managed land areas. We actively seek to protect the rights of families and communities from unwise and unnecessary acquisition, as well as the overregulation that has tragically led to the destruction of small communities and rural lifestyles.

NIA believes that inholders have a right to the full use and quiet enjoyment of their land consistent with the intent of Congress in creation of a Federal area. NIA urges that specific provisions and protections for private interests be considered in the creation and management of an area.

NIA believes inholders can coexist with Federal areas to the benefit of those areas, such as is the case in the Great Basin today. Through the good stewardship of the U.S. Forest Service, the area is currently used for multiple uses which include grazing, recreation, mining, and hunting.

If a park is established, these multiple uses will cease to exist and have a severe economic impact on the surrounding communities. As Secretary of Interior Hodel said last year when asked about grazing and drilling the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve:

> Any obstacle to drilling or grazing would depend on the legislation that creates the park. But there is a trap in that. If legislation says grazing and drilling is permitted, as soon as the park is created there will be an enormous push to prevent it by banning it outright or raising so much redtape that it could become impossible. Like night follows day, it's an unwavering principle of park development. Within 5 years, anyone carrying on commercial activity in the park would find it difficult if not impossible to operate.

This quote was from the Daily Oklahoman.

With this quote in mind, I refer you to section 3 (e) and (f) of S. 2506. It says "the Secretary shall permit grazing on lands within the park to the same extent as was permitted on such lands as of July 1, 1985" and "At the request of the affected persons, the Secretary of Agriculture shall negotiate an exchange with holders of valid existing grazing rights on land within the park for grazing rights of an equal number of animal unit months on land within the Humboldt National Forest." When asked about these proposed exchanges, the U.S. Forest Service stated that there were no available grazing allotments in Humbolt. Then what should a rancher do? Will the rancher be compensated for the cost of or reduction of grazing or water rights?

The NIA believes that a national park will disrupt the balance of uses and protection which has existed for decades. We think, as those who opposed the Great Basin National Park in the House of Representatives, that such a drastic change in management should proceed slowly and only through thorough consideration.

Since S. 2506 was hastily introduced, NIA opposes the enactment of this bill for the following reasons:

There is no demonstrated threat to the area.

The present multiple-use management by the Forest Service has served the community well.

This bill does not consider the culture and heritage of the area residents and does not adequately protect private rights.

The designation is not for resource protection since there is protection through the Forest Service's management.

The polls taken among the population mostly affected by this proposal oppose the park.

No economic impact study was ever done on the Great Basin National Area.

Private property rights such as mining claims, grazing allotments, and water rights are at risk of being expropriated.

Proponents have exaggerated the projections of tourist contributions to the area's economy.

The risk of future park expansion is alarming because over the years environmentalists and certain Congressmen have pushed for a park many times the size of this park.

Prime hunting areas will be lost.

This area does not qualify under national park standards. Proponents descriptions of scenic wonders have been grossly exaggerated.

In conclusion, we wish to thank the subcommittee for hearing our testimony and we hope the Senators will recognize and protect the private rights and interests of Nevadan citizens when they make their final decision on the present proposal.

Senator **HECHT**. Thank you very much.

Mr. Steven Richardson, you are last but I am sure not least.

STATEMENT OF STEVEN RICHARDSON, SENIOR COUNSEL FOR CONSERVATION, THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Mr. **RICHARDSON**. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the courtesy of allowing me to appear despite our oversight of the committee rules, and may I commend you for your patience in conducting today's hearing. It is very admirable.

Mr. Chairman, my name is Steven Richardson, senior counsel for conservation for the Wilderness Society. I am pleased to be here to testify on S. 2506.

The Wilderness Society is a national conservation organization specializing on Federal lands issues representing over 160,000 persons.

S. 2506 would establish a 44,000-acre national park in eastern Nevada centered on the South Snake Range. The Wilderness Society is encouraged by your leadership, Mr. Chairman. Appropriately you have recognized the merits of national qualities representative of this area. However, we respectfully state that S. 2506 does not go far enough.

Proposals to create a Great Basin National Park have been around for more than 50 years. The basin and range country contain immense natural diversity. Ranges such as the South Snake that rise out of the desert floor in a few miles soar to over 13,000 feet and provide a haven for diverse flora, fauna, and physical forms.

It is this variety of ecotypes that first attracted supporters, including the National Park Service, to advocate preserving a representative sample of the basin and range. Unfortunately, S. 2506 does not adequately protect the full range of ecological values of the Basin and the Range. However, as stated by my colleague Mr. Evans earlier, it is a start.

It can be characterized, however, as merely a rocks and ice proposal, preserving the alpine core of the area but failing to protect the ecological variety that makes the area so unique.

The original conservationist proposal for the Great Basin Park included protecting both the mountain range and the basins surrounding it. By so doing, the American people would have the entire range of values found from the desert floor to the treeless alpine zone.

We, however, agreed to compromise and support a House-passed measure, H.R. 4642, that would set aside 174,000 acres as a Great Basin Park and Preserve. That bill wisely recognized that the ecological values of the area must be protected while at the same time protecting traditional grazing patterns and hunter use within the preserve.

The Wilderness Society urges the subcommittee to adopt a bill containing the House-passed Great Basin National Park and Preserve. The Great Basin National Park and Preserve proposal contained in the House-passed bill was a balanced package. The bill provided wilderness protection for over 600,000 acres of RARE II lands, as well as creating a park and preserve at the same time it released over 1 million acres of roadless lands to other uses.

H.R. 4642 was referred to this subcommittee, and we urge the subcommittee to incorporate its provisions and the provision of wilderness protection into your bill. The protection of that bill would greatly enhance the present measure.

One of our objections to the current proposal before the subcommittee, and I will be very brief, are contained in section 3. We are concerned about certain provisions relating to grazing rights. I think that my statement summarizes those rather well.

I would simply conclude, Mr. Chairman, by saying that the Wilderness Society urges the subcommittee to include the 11 wilderness areas in H.R. 4642, as well as to expand the park proposal to the full range of the Reid bill. We believe that these additions are necessary to preserve the diverse ecological values of the area, and we thank you very much for your time and attention.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Richardson follows:]

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

TESTIMONY OF STEVEN RICHARDSON BEFORE THE PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON S. 2506, A BILL TO ESTABLISH A GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK, JULY 18, 1986.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, my name is Steven Richardson, Senior Counsel for Conservation of The Wilderness Society. I am pleased to be here today to testify on S. 2506. The Wilderness Society is a national conservation organization specializing on federal lands issues representing over 160,000 members.

This bill would establish a 44,000 acre national park in eastern Nevada centered on the South Snake Range. While The Wilderness Society is encouraged that Senators Hecht and Laxalt recognize that the area merits national recognition, we must oppose the bill in its present form.

I. S. 2506 does not adequately represent the diverse ecological values of the Great Basin Country

Proposals to create a Great Basin National Park have been around for almost 50 years. The Basin and Range country contain immense natural diversity. Ranges such as the South Snake that rise out of the desert floor and in a few short miles soar to over 13,000 feet provide a haven for diverse flora, fauna and physical forms. It is this variety of ecotypes that first attracted supporters, including the National Park Service, to advocate preserving a representative sample of the Basin and Range.

1400 EYE STREET, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005
(202) 842-3400

S. 2506, unfortunately, does not adequately protect the full range of ecological values of the Basin and Range. It can better be characterized as a "rocks and ice" proposal, preserving the alpine core of the area but failing to protect the ecological variety that makes the area so unique.

The conservationist proposal for a Great Basin Park includes protecting both the mountain range and the basins surrounding it. By so doing the American people would have the entire range of values found from the desert floor to the treeless alpine zone. We, however, agreed to compromise and support the House-passed Reid bill, H.R. 4642, that would set aside 174,000 acres as a Great Basin Park and Preserve. That bill wisely recognized that the ecological values of the area must be protected while at the same time protecting traditional grazing patterns and hunter use within the Preserve. The Wilderness Society urges the Subcommittee to adopt a bill containing the House-passed Great Basin National Park and Preserve language.

II. S. 2506 does not protect Nevada's other wild places

The Great Basin National Park and Preserve proposal contained in the House-passed bill was part of a balanced package. The bill provided wilderness protection for almost 600,000 acres of deserving RARE II lands as well as creating a park and preserve. At the same time it released well over 1 million acres of roadless lands to other uses. Nevada currently has only one wilderness area, Jarbidge, and ranks last among western states in designated wilderness.

This compromise was the result of literally hundreds of Nevadans working for many years. The House-passed bill systematically protected many mining claims. Likewise, the House-passed bill explicitly protects grazing privileges. A recent poll by the Nevada Division of State Parks shows that Nevadans support setting aside wilderness lands as well as a park for their heritage. The House-passed measure accomplishes that goal. For theconvenience of the Committee, my attached Exhibits "A" and "B" describe the mining claim effects and the Nevada opinion poll, respectively.

H.R. 4642, which passed the House on April 30 of this year, was referred to this Subcommittee. We strongly urge that the provisions of that bill designating 11 wilderness areas totalling 597,000 acres be adopted by this Committee. Even if adopted, Nevada will continue to rank last among western states in designated wilderness. The wilderness proposals in H.R. 4642 are a balanced approach supported by Nevadans. This protection should be contained in any bill creating a Great Basin Park.

III. S. 2506 contains provisions antithetical to the concept of a National Park

A national park is set aside by Congress to preserve important values and to allow the public to learn about and enjoy them. In cases of conflict between public use and preservation the National Park Organic Act mandates that the Park Service preserve values for which the park was established. S. 2506 changes this balance by inserting provisions to make some uses dominant.

Section 3(b) requires the Secretary of Interior to permit fishing within the Park. The only exception is if public safety is threatened. The thrust of this provision is towards use rather than stewardship. It does not give the Secretary the necessary discretion to prohibit fishing if it is necessary to re-establish a natural ecosystem or protect a fish species. The Section should be deleted or amended to provide necessary discretion to the Secretary.

Section 3(f) provides for exchange of grazing "rights" for an equal number of Animal Use Months (AUM's) Humboldt National Forest with "priority given . . . to options including Forest Service range improvement measures . . ." Grazing permits convey no valid existing right. They are a privilege revocable by the Secretary. Legislation should not elevate this privilege to the status of a right.

Moreover, this section mandates the Secretary of Agriculture, at the request of the permittee, to exchange a grazing permit for an equal number of AUM's within the Humboldt National Forest. The section, however, fails to grant the Secretary any discretion to act on behalf of stewardship of public lands. What happens if all range within the Forest is already being grazed to capacity? This section would seem to require the Secretary to allow overgrazing. This is an unsound public policy for any legislation. It should be removed from the bill.

The section further gives priority to range improvements. However, there appears to be some disagreement as to what improvements would receive it. For example, is this designed to increase AUM's sufficiently to provide for exchanges? Again it gives no authority to the Secretary to balance use with conservation. It appears that Section 3(f) could be read as establishing grazing as the dominant use of the Humboldt National Forest.

Section 3(g) prohibits the United States from establishing any "reserved water rights". The lakes and streams of the South Snake Range are one of its principle attractions. They provide a contrast to the desert landscape below. They are integral to the national park character. Denying the United States a primary tool to protect water rights within conservation units, an important function consistently upheld by the courts, threatens not only this park but every other national park in the country. This section must be removed.

Section 4(a) allows the Secretary to acquire land by donation purchase, or exchange, but not by condemnation. The Secretary should retain authority to condemn property if a proposed use is incompatible with the purpose of the park. To permit otherwise means that condominiums or shopping centers could be built on sensitive areas within the park and the Secretary would be unable to prevent. This section should be amended to allow the Secretary to condemn private lands within the park, if uses are determined to be incompatible with the purpose of the park.

IV. Conclusion

The Wilderness Society urges this Committee to include in this legislation the eleven wilderness areas in H.R. 4642 as well as expand the Park proposal to include the full 174,000 acres needed to provide a diverse ecotype representation. In addition, we ask that several provisions of S. 2506 be deleted or amended to assure protection of Nevada's great natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Exhibit "A" Page 1

FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS
MINING CLAIMS IN NEVADA'S PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREAS

AREA NAME	ACRES	CLAIMS	CLAIMED ACRES	% OF AREA
Alta Toquima	45,000	9	186	0.41
Arc Dome	146,000	88	1,818	1.25
Boundary Peak	8,900	3	62	0.70
Currant Mt.	49,000	0	0	0.00
East Humboldts	30,000	0	0	0.00
Elk Mt.	12,575	0	0	0.00
Excelsior Mts.	114,000	118	2,438	2.14
Grant Range	60,000	32	661	1.10
Jarbidge Adds.	54,000	94	1,942	3.60
Mt. Moriah	88,000	55	1,136	1.29
Mt. Rose	35,000	0	0	0.00
Pearl Pk.	23,000	20	413	1.80
Quinn Canyon	95,000	43	888	0.94
Ruby Mts.	150,000	36	744	0.50
Santa Rosa Mts.	80,000	56	1,157	1.45
South Schell Range	120,000	17	351	0.29
South Snake Range	120,000	275	5,682	4.73
Spring Mts.	50,000	1	21	0.04
Sweetwater Mts.	12,260	20	413	3.37
Table Mt.	125,000	245	5,062	4.05
Toiyabe Crest	79,000	120	2,479	3.14
TOTAL	1,496,735	1,232	25,453	1.70

Source: BLM Geographic Index of Mining Claims, May 1985

Note: Lapsed claims not shown. Mining claims in Pearl Peak and Sweetwater are preliminary estimates.

There are 348,000 mining claims in Nevada. The 1,232 claims in the Friends of Nevada Wilderness proposal represents .3% of the total. Furthermore, on average, 13.3% of the state is claimed for mining purposes as compared to the 1.7% in our wilderness proposal.

Exhibit "A" Page 2

LOCATION OF MINING CLAIMS IN NEVADA

(Percent of Total Claims in State)

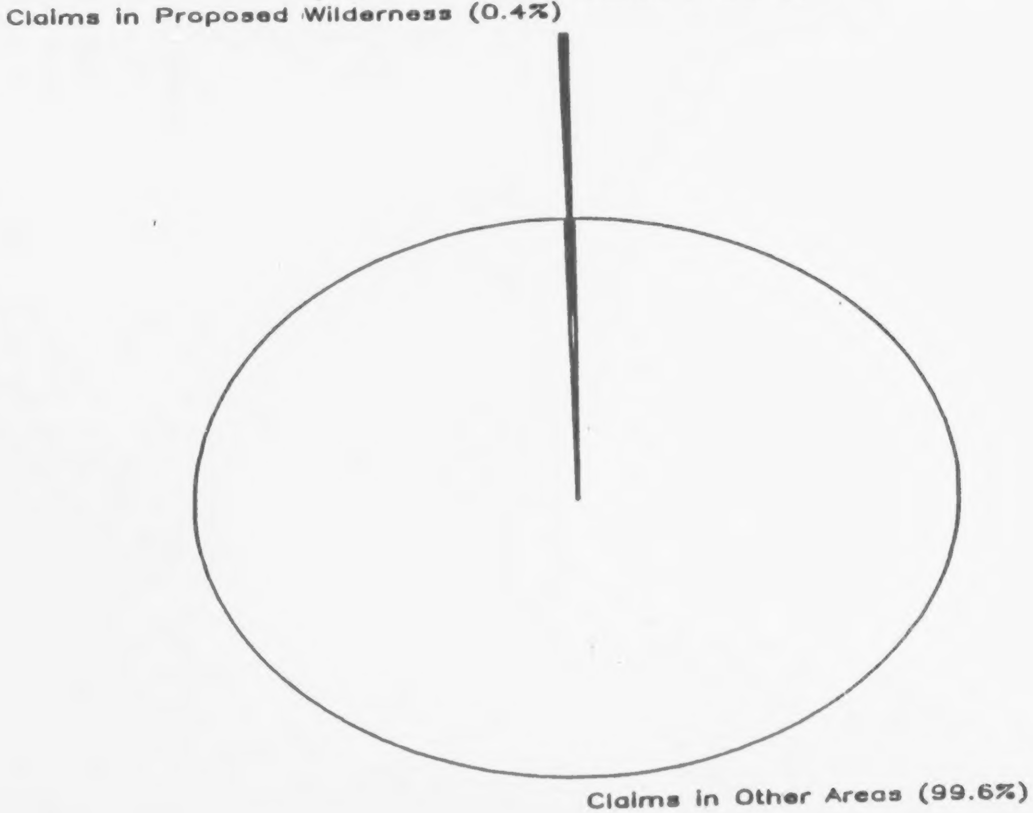


EXHIBIT "A" Page 3

MINING CLAIMS IN PROPOSED WILDERNESS

(Percent of Total Acres)

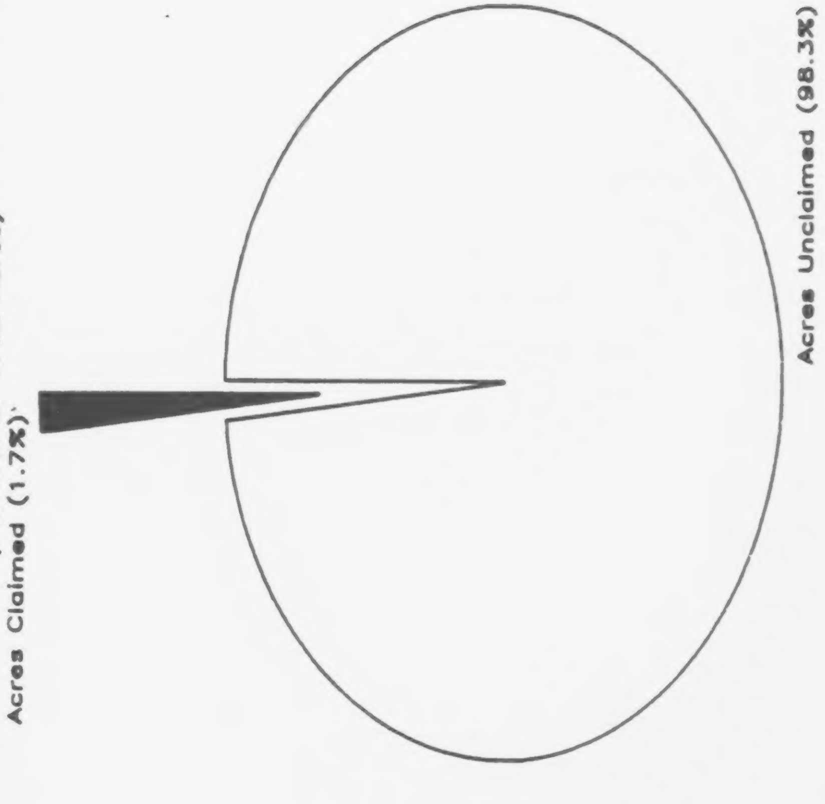


Exhibit "B"

50th Anniversary
Nevada State Parks

Division
of
State
Parks

John Richardson
Administrator

Room 119
Nye Building
201 South Fall Street
Capitol Complex
Carson City
Nevada
89710

702/885-4370

Richard H. Bryan
Governor

A division of the
Department of Conservati
and Natural Resources

Roland D. Westergard
Director

May 21, 1986

The Honorable Harry Reid
House of Representatives
1711 Longworth Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Reid,

The Nevada Division of State Parks is mandated by the Nevada Revised Statute, 407.205 to prepare and maintain a comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plan.

As part of the maintenance process, the Division conducts statewide public opinion surveys to collect data on user characteristics, needs for outdoor recreational facilities and resident opinions on recreation related policy questions.

For your information, I have enclosed a copy of the survey results. The survey results will be used to update the 1987 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

If you have any inquiries, please contact me.

Sincerely,

John Richardson

John Richardson
Administrator

JR:JN:mp
338.0

Exhibit "B"

SECTION TWO:
Research Methodology

MSR conducted in excess of 2,000 telephone interviews with Nevada residents in a one-month period beginning on January 17, 1986. All interviews were conducted from MSR's two telephone research facilities (Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada) by trained interviewers operating under the direct supervision of the Project Manager.

The sample pool was generated using algorythmic randomization so as to assure that the sample consisted not only of those Nevada residents who were listed in current directories, but also those with new-listed or unlisted telephone numbers as well. The process, while requiring extended effort, assured that the potential drawbacks of non-randomness and non-representativeness were overcome.

The sample size of 2,000 was selected in order to assure a significant sample size for each of the six ORPR's in Nevada. The ORPR's and the sample size for each were as follows:

Region	Sample Size	Geographic Area
One	616	Washoe, Churchill, Lyon, Douglas, Carson City, and Storey Counties
Two	199	Nye, Mineral and Esmeralda
Three	592	Clark County
Four	209	White Pine, Lincoln, and Eureka
Five	200	Elko County
Six	200	Humboldt, Pershing, and Lander
Total	2,016	

The randomly generated sample allows confidence in the findings at 95% certainty. Confidence is a function of both sample size and variation, and the potential error that may be attributed to sampling is approximately ±2.2% for the overall sample of 2,000. For the subsamples in Regions One and Three, the margin of error is ±4.0%, while for the subsamples of 200 in regions Two, Four, Five, and Six it is ±6.9%.

NOTE: Data processing was conducted by Robert A. Rigsby of the Systems and Programming Division of the Nevada Department of Data Processing.

Exhibit "B"

Question 9: Some people have suggested setting aside designated wilderness areas in Nevada - that is, scenic areas that are protected from development and also protected from access by motorized vehicles. How do you feel about that idea?

Findings:

Level of Agreement	Overall (N=2015)	Percent by Region One (N=616)	Two (N=199)	Three (N=591)	Four (N=209)	Five (N=200)	Six (N=200
Strongly Agree	53.4	62.7	47.2	69.0	23.9	33.0	36.5
Mildly Agree	20.5	19.3	22.6	18.0	21.5	29.0	19.5
Mildly Disagree	8.8	7.9	10.1	3.9	13.9	11.5	17.0
Strongly Disagree	14.3	8.1	17.1	4.9	36.8	24.5	25.0
Don't Know	2.8	1.9	2.5	4.0	3.3	2.0	2.0
Refused	.1	0.0	.5	0.0	.4	0.0	0.0

Observations:

While 53 percent of Nevadans, overall, strongly agree with the idea of setting aside designated wilderness areas, there is a great deal of variation across regions. Support is strongest in the urban regions, One and Three, and weakest in Regions Four and Five (Lincoln, White Pine, Eureka, and Elko Counties).

Statewide, support for the idea decreases among residents who have lived in Nevada ten years or longer, and also decreases as age increases, as demonstrated in the tables below:

Length of Residence	Percent who Strongly Agree
Less than 1 year	64.7
1-2 years	64.3
3-5 years	64.1
6-10 years	62.2
Over 10 years	47.5

Age of Respondent	Percent who Strongly Agree
18-24	64.3
25-35	58.7
36-45	53.2
46-55	51.7
56-65	38.6
Over 65	40.2

Agreement is especially low in Region 4, with just 23.9 percent voicing strong agreement. In that Region, residents of over 10 years are even less likely to support a designated wilderness area (18.3 percent indicate strong agreement), as are residents over the age of 55 (14 percent).

Exhibit "B"

Question 12: There has been much discussion recently about establishing a National Park in Nevada. How do you feel about this idea? Do you strongly agree, mildly agree, mildly disagree, or strongly disagree?

Findings:

Level of Agreement	Overall (N=2014)	One (N=616)	Two (N=199)	Three (N=590)	Four (N=209)	Five (N=200)	Six (N=200)
			Percent by Region				
Strongly Agree	65.0	70.8	59.8	75.9	37.3	55.5	58.5
Mildly Agree	18.7	18.1	20.6	14.7	17.7	25.5	24.5
Mildly Disagree	4.6	4.3	5.0	2.4	10.5	6.0	4.0
Strongly Disagree	5.8	1.8	5.0	2.0	28.2	7.5	4.5
Don't Know	5.8	4.9	8.5	4.7	6.2	5.5	8.5
Refused	.1	0.0	1.0	.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

Observations:

Statewide, just under two-thirds of those questioned "strongly agree" with the idea of establishing a national Park in nevada. Once again, support for this idea is strongest in Regions One and Three, and weakest in Four and Five. Support is particularly low in Region four, with just 37 percent there expressing strong agreement. As in the previous questions, support for this idea is weakest among those who have resided in Nevada for more than 10 years, and among older respondents:

Length of Residence	Percent who Strongly Agree
Under 1 year	67.6
1-2 years	72.7
3-5 years	74.3
6-10 years	69.0
Over 10 years	61.3

Age of Respondent	Percent who Strongly Agree
18-24	77.7
25-35	70.5
36-45	63.9
46-55	57.9
56-65	50.7
Over 65	56.3

Senator **Hecht**. Thank you very much.

I want to thank all of you who have come from long distances to testify. Some of you live locally, but many came at a tremendous expense, and that is greatly appreciated.

I want to thank the staff for their indulgence, and all the work which they have done.

Tony, again, you are great.

And last but not least, our court reporter who has sat there so patiently and recorded every word for the record.

Thank you all, and we are now adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 1 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

APPENDIXES

APPENDIX I

Responses to Additional Committee Questions

United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

SEP 5 1986

Honorable Malcolm Wallop
Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands,
Reserved Water, and Resource Conservation
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wallop:

In response to your letter of July 23, enclosed are our answers to questions submitted by Senator Johnston concerning S. 2506, the proposed Great Basin National Park, on which we testified at the hearing before your Subcommittee on July 18, 1986.

Sincerely,

J. Stephen Britt
Legislative Counsel

Enclosure

QUESTIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR CONCERNING S. 2506

1. Subsection 3(e) of S. 2506 states in part that the "Secretary shall permit grazing on lands within the park to the same extent as was permitted on such lands as of July 1, 1985."

Does this give the Park Service adequate flexibility to regulate grazing and protect park resources? Could such a provision conceivably lead to overgrazing in the park since levels appear to be fixed without regard to possible changes in use, climate, etc.? Could this provision be interpreted as requiring the National Park Service to find users for AUM's abandoned by present permittees since the level of grazing cannot, by statute, fall below July 1, 1985, levels?

ANSWER: Subsection 3(c) provides that grazing shall continue on lands within the park to the same extent as was permitted on such lands as of July 1, 1985, but also provides that such grazing will be subject to such limitations, conditions, or regulations as the Secretary may prescribe to ensure that overgrazing does not occur and proper range management is maintained. It is our understanding that the provisions of subsection 3(c) were to ensure that grazing was not terminated but would be allowed to continue under proper range conditions. We believe that the appropriate interpretation of this subsection is that the National Park Service shall allow grazing (i.e., the same number of animal unit months) not in excess of a ceiling level of July 1, 1985, should the present permittees abandon their allotments.

2. How much private land is located within the boundary proposed by S. 2506? How does this compare with the area included in the 174,000-acre park passed by the House?

ANSWER: It is our understanding that there are no privately owned surface estates within the proposed 44,000-acre boundary. Also, we have been informed that there are approximately 877 acres within the proposed 174,000-acre boundary that are privately owned in addition to numerous valid mining claims that constitute an interest in land.

3. Do you support the provision in the House-passed bill specifically abolishing the Lehman Caves National Monument?

ANSWER: Yes. We support the provision in the House-passed bill that would abolish Lehman Caves National Monument and would incorporate the lands within the Great Basin National Park.

4. It appears that subsection 3(c) of S. 2506 limits the contents of the management plan for the park to provisions related to grazing and fish and wildlife management. Do you find such language too restrictive?

ANSWER: Section 12(b) of the Act of August 18, 1970 (16 U.S.C. 1a-7), requires the National Park Service to prepare general management plans for each unit of the National Park System, which shall include measures for preservation of the resources, type and intensity of development, and carrying capacity. If a national park were authorized by Congress, the National Park Service would address the provisions of subsection 3(c) during the preparation of the general management plan required pursuant to the Act of August 18, 1970.

5. Do you feel that the language in S. 2506 regarding the prohibition of any reservation of water for park purposes could affect any existing withdrawal made when the Humboldt National Forest was established? If so, how would you propose to amend the language to avoid this problem?

ANSWER: We believe that under S. 2506 sufficient water would be available to successfully manage the park for the purposes set out in the bill.

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

Honorable Malcolm Wallop
Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands,
  Reserved Water and Resource Conservation
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wallop:

Enclosed, in response to your letter of July 23, are our answers to questions submitted by Senator Johnston on S. 2534, on which the National Park Service testified at the hearing before your Subcommittee on July 18.

We appreciate the opportunity to supplement our testimony.

Sincerely,

J. Stephen Britt
Legislative Counsel

Enclosure

Questions for the Administration concerning S. 2534

Question 1. I understand that the National Park Service currently owns about 1 acre which it acquired for the particular purpose of developing a mainland facility for its tour boat operation. This is the so-called Broad Street site. How did the National Park Service acquire this property? What has occurred to make the property inadequate as a mainland site for which it was acquired?

Answer. The Coast Guard and the Department of the Army transferred the Broad Street site to the National Park Service in 1964. Plans to use the Broad Street site as a tour boat facility raised significant and vociferous opposition from the adjacent residential neighborhood.

Question 2. Was the Fleet Landing Site chosen by means of a planning process which included public involvement? Was the Dockside II site similarly chosen by a planning process which included public involvement?

Answer. In February 1978 a tourism study recommended that the National Park Service boat facility be built on the Cooper River (Fleet Landing site). The city agreed with the recommendation. In March 1978 the city asked the Service to abandon the Broad Street site and to build at the Fleet Landing site. As part of its overall waterfront redevelopment plan which includes a marine science museum, the city learned that the Fleet Landing site and adjacent Cruise Ship Terminal would not be able to accommodate all desired facilities. There were additional concerns about access, parking and crowding, and the concessionaire requested consideration of a new site, Dockside II, in May 1985. The city agreed on the Dockside II location and requested the Service to consider it. Based upon the opposition and concerns of city residents in regard to Broad Street and Fleet Landing, the public has been involved in the process.

Question 3. You indicate that the land to be acquired under this legislation, the Dockside II site, is owned by the current National Park Service concessionaire for the tour boat. How long has the current concessionaire operated the tour boat under a concession contract? When will his current contract expire?

Answer. The current concessionaire has operated the tour boat under a concession contract since 1960. His current contract will expire in 2000.

Question 4. If the current concession contract were to be cancelled for any purpose and a new concessionaire were to take over, would the public still have the right to all of the Dockside II facilities acquired or constructed with Federal funds? What guarantees do we have or does the public have that

Mr. Campsen would not seek to block the public from parking areas or other facilities which he would wish to keep for his own private business purposes?

Answer. If the current concessionaire contract were to be cancelled and a new concessionaire were to take over, the public would be assured of the rights to all Dockside II facilities acquired or constructed with Federal funds.

The cooperative agreement to be negotiated by the National Park Service, the city, and the concessionaire will address the parking issue. The Service will insist that visitors will be able to park without restriction except for a few spaces needed for staff. The Service, city, and restaurant will be sharing all spaces.

Question 5. Will the National Park Service construct and maintain parking for (a) the restaurant, (b) the city Marine Museum, and (c) the general public? Will the owner of the restaurant, Mr. Campsen, and the city contribute to construction and maintenance cost? What have they agreed to contribute? Has the National Park Service ever constructed parking for a private facility such as the restaurant that is not providing a public service through a concessions contract anywhere else in the National Park System to your knowledge?

Answer. The National Park Service will not construct a designated number of parking spaces for the restaurant. The cost of any parking spaces solely for the restaurant will be borne by the restaurant owner/operator, since they will be provided on his own land. The Service will construct the parking area for the city's marine museum and the general public. The city will be responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the parking area, including paying for lighting, and will provide overflow parking at an adjacent city area. We are not aware of the Service constructing parking for a private facility that is not providing a public service through a concession contract.

Question 6. The concessionaire acquired the property that will be purchased by the National Park Service several months ago. How much did he pay for the property, and how much will the National Park Service pay him for it? Has the National Park Service ever acquired property from any other concessionaire to operate concession facilities inside a park?

Answer. The concessionaire paid $1.6 million for the Dockside II property. The anticipated cost to the Federal Government will be based upon an appraisal of fair market value. The cost has not been determined. As to whether the Service has ever acquired property from a concessionaire to operate a concession facility in a park, we are unaware of any such instance.

Question 7. The concessionaire will construct a restaurant on a portion of this property. What is to prevent him from also constructing other commercial buildings or high-rise residential buildings?

Answer. The National Park Service will acquire deed restrictions on the portion of the property to be retained by the concessionaire. These will ensure that other commercial buildings or high-rise residential units will not be built. Only the restaurant and associated facilities will be allowed.

Question 8. The concessionaire's restaurant operation will not be part of the service that he provides to the public under his concession contract with the National Park Service. It will be a completely private and independent operation. However, without the development by the National Park Service of the mainland tour boat docking facility and the administration and interpretation facilities for visitors to Fort Sumter, what is the likelihood that his restaurant business would be a success? Is there any other source of potential restaurant customers to the proposed restaurant? If most or all of his customers are going to be park visitors, why doesn't the National Park Service require that the restaurant operate as a food service concession and obtain a portion of the receipts such as the Park Service requires for any other public service at a National Park Service facility?

Answer. The restaurant would function independently from the National Park Service/concessionaire operation. The city's tourism management plan suggested that the restaurant would be a desired operation. The bulk of the restaurant's business would be conducted after tour hours, so the restaurant is incidental to the tour boat operation. Probably some of the restaurant's business would be derived from park visitors, but the restaurant needs a broader clientele to achieve success.

Question 9. Please provide a narrative description of any contracts between Mr. Campsen and the National Park Service just prior to his purchase of the property. What interest, if any, did the Park Service express in this property prior to its acquisition by Mr. Campsen?

Answer. The concessionaire and the Superintendent have engaged in a series of discussions concerning improving the tour boat operation. The National Park Service consistently advised the concessionaire that it could make no commitment to a new site without congressional authorization and that the concessionaire was acting at his own risk. There follows a description of communications.

March 23, 1985 - A written communication from the Superintendent to the Regional Office of the National Park Service noted that the Cruise Ship Terminal looked like a good location for the tour boat facility.

May 8, 1985 - By telephone the concessionaire made the Superintendent aware of a new tour boat site: Dockside II.

May 8, 1985 - A letter from the Superintendent to the concessionaire advised him that the Service still favored the Cruise Ship Terminal.

May 13, 1985 - The concessionaire requested consideration of a new tour boat site, known as Dockside II. This request was contained in a letter from the concessionaire to the Superintendent. The concessionaire noted that he had negotiated an option on the site for a purchase price of $2.0 million and he was attempting to ignite the city's interest.

May 15, 1985 - Charleston Mayor Riley, by telephone, advised the Superintendent that the city liked Dockside II and would like the Service to examine it.

June 10, 1985 - A letter from the Mayor to the Superintendent validated the May 15 telephone conversation

July 19, 1985 - At a meeting at the Regional Office, the concessionaire requested assurance from the Service that it would acquire the Dockside II site at fair market value.

July 22, 1985 - The concessionaire's attorney telephoned the Regional Office to request a meeting between the Service and the city of Charleston regarding Dockside II.

July 25, 1985 - The concessionaire requested National Park Service support for the Dockside II site in a letter to the Regional Director.

August 6, 1985 - A letter, copy attached, from the Regional Director to the concessionaire outlined the Service's interest and the role of a third party (i. e. the concessionaire in any land acquisition action). In summary, the Regional Director viewed the Dockside II site as an excellent opportunity but, "I find it impossible to give you any assurance that your investment is secure or will eventually be repaid by the Federal Government." The concessionaire's concurrence was requested and received in writing on August 15, 1985.

August 15, 1985 - A concessionaire letter to the Service reported that the potential purchase price of the property had dropped from $2.0 million to $1.8 million and that he still maintained an option. He extended the Service's opportunity to purchase the property from April 30, 1986, to May 31, 1986.

August 1985 - The July meeting spurred the Service to commence a study of the Dockside II site.

September 30, 1985 - National Park Service report completed containing recommendations on necessary steps to proceed with acquisition and development of Dockside II.

October 1985 - Negotiations in meetings between the Service, city, and concessionaire on cooperative agreement concerning acquisition and development of Dockside II.

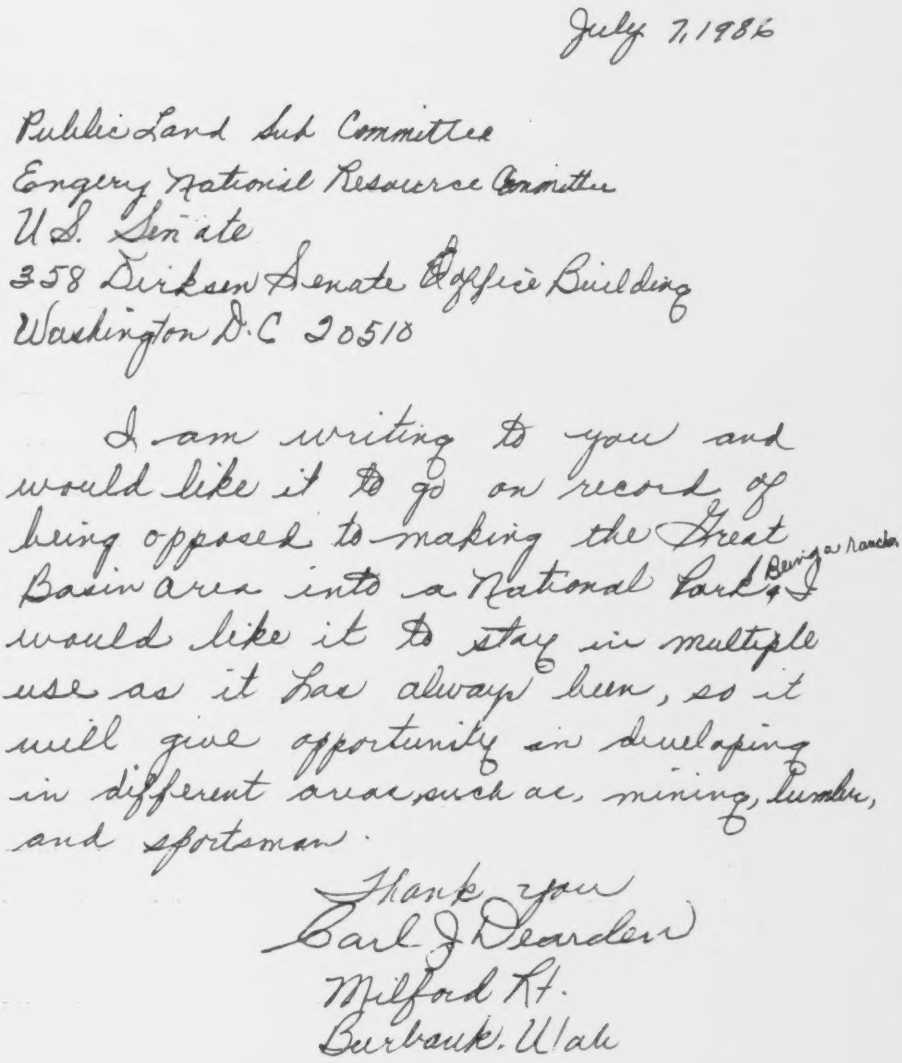
November 1985 - National Park Service internal meeting to determine further Service proposal.

December 1985 - Memorandum of Understanding among NPS/city of Charleston/Fort Sumter Tours, Inc., drafted.

January 15, 1986 - Concessionaire exercised option to purchase.

APPENDIX II

Additional Material Submitted for the Record

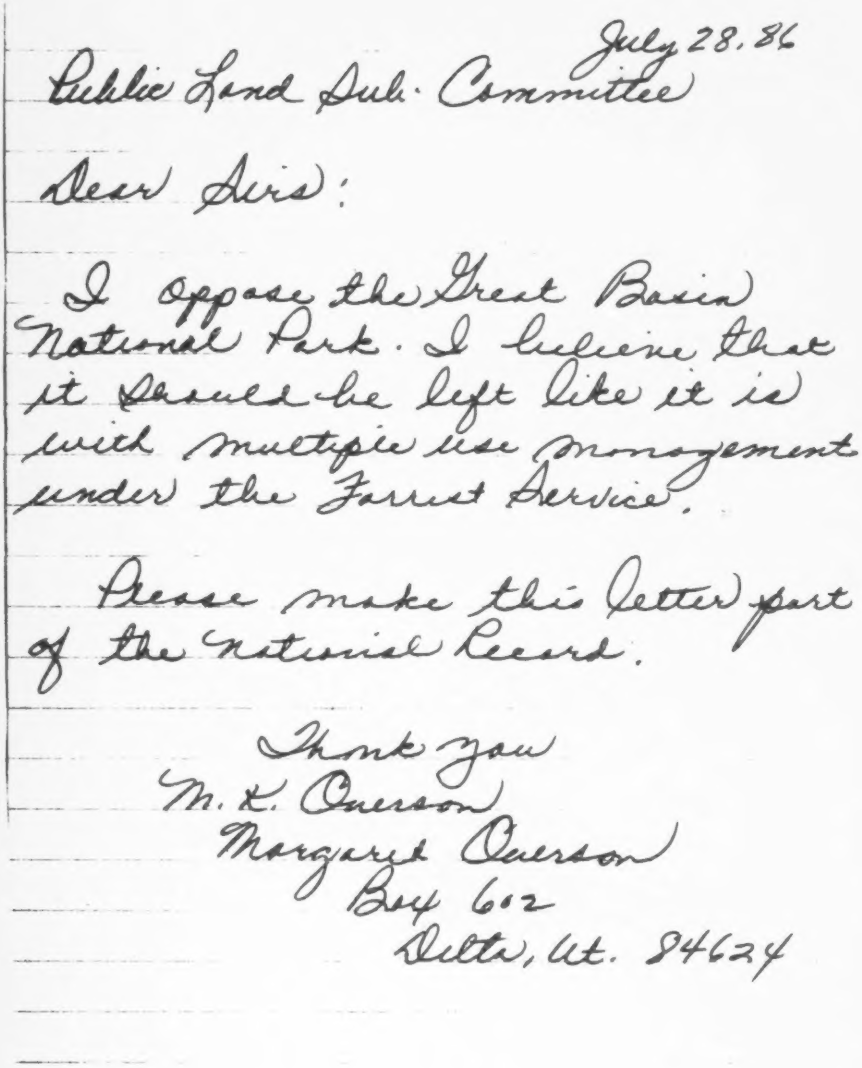


July 7, 1986

Public Land Sub Committee
Engery National Resource Committee
U.S. Senate
358 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington D.C 20510

I am writing to you and would like it to go on record of being opposed to making the Great Basin area into a National Park, Being a rancher I would like it to stay in multiple use as it has alway been, so it will give opportunity in developing in different areas, such as, mining, lumber, and sportsman.

Thank you
Carl J Dearden
Milford Rt.
Burbank, Utah



July 28, 86

Public Land Sub-Committee

Dear Sirs:

I oppose the Great Basin National Park. I believe that it should be left like it is with multiple use management under the Forrest Service.

Please make this letter part of the National Record.

Thank you
M. K. Overson
Margaret Overson
Box 602
Delta, Ut. 84624

Alamo, NV
July 28, 1986

U.S. Senate
Public Land Comm.
Energy & Natural Res. Comm.

I am writing to oppose this Great Basin National Park - In the Baker, Nev, Garrison, Utah area.

We would like to see it left as is, for multiple use with management under the forest service.

Please make this a part of the official record.

Thank You,
Marion L. Perkins
Box 171
Alamo, Nevada
89001

alamo Nev. -
U.S. Senate. July 28 1986
Public Land Comm.
Energy & Natural Res. Comm -

I am writing to oppose this Great Basin National Park - in Baker Nevada Garrison Utah area.

We would like to see it left as is, for multiple use with managment under the forest servece -

Please make this a part of 'offecial' record -

Thank you
Margaret Perkins
Box 171
alamo Nevada
89001

7-27-86
McGill, Nev.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writting this letter to let you know that I oppose. A great Basin National Park of any size in White Pine County.

I am in favor of leaving it as a multiple use land under the forest service.

I would also like this letter to be made part of the National Register.

Thank you

Rose E. Peterson
Box 1063
McGill, Nev. 89318

Clarce Peterson
439 Nevada Ave
Ely, Nevada 89301

Public Land Sub Committee
Energy & Natural Resources Commission

I am writing to state my opposition to the Great Basin National Park. I think it should be left as multiple use land under the Forest Service. I have lived here for 78 years and like it the way it is.

I want this letter to be a part of the National Register.

Sincerely,
Mrs Clarice Peterson

July 28, 1986
Delta, Utah
84624

Public Land Sub Committee
Energy & Natural Resources Committee
U.S. Senate
358 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

To those Concerned:

I oppose the Great Basin Nat. Park. I feel it should be left as it is, with multiple use management under the forest service. The Cattle and sheepmen and agriculture in general are having real tough time, let alone taking away the grazing freedom.

The public has enough playgrounds, Without having to take more.

I ask that this be made a part of the official record.

Sincerely,
Otto Eldon Nielson

2-27-86
~~M~~c Gil, Nev.

TO WHOM It MAY CONCERN:

I am writing this letter to Let you Know that I oppose a great Basin National park of any size in White pine County.

I am in favor of Leaving it as a multiple use land under the Forest Service.

I would also like this letter to be made part of the National Register.

THANK YOU,

Gary L. Peterson
Box 1063
Mc GiLL, Nevada 89318

Gary L. Peterson

Donna Hernandez
1028 16th St
Ely Nevada 89301

Public Land Sub-Committee
Energy & Natural Resourses Commission

I am writing to say I am strongly opposed to a Great Basin National Park being created. The majority of the people here are opposed to it. The majority of the people want it to remain multiple use land under the forest service.

Please do not spend more tax dollars on unnessasary things as this.

I want this letter to be part of the National Record.

Sincerely,
Donna Hernandez

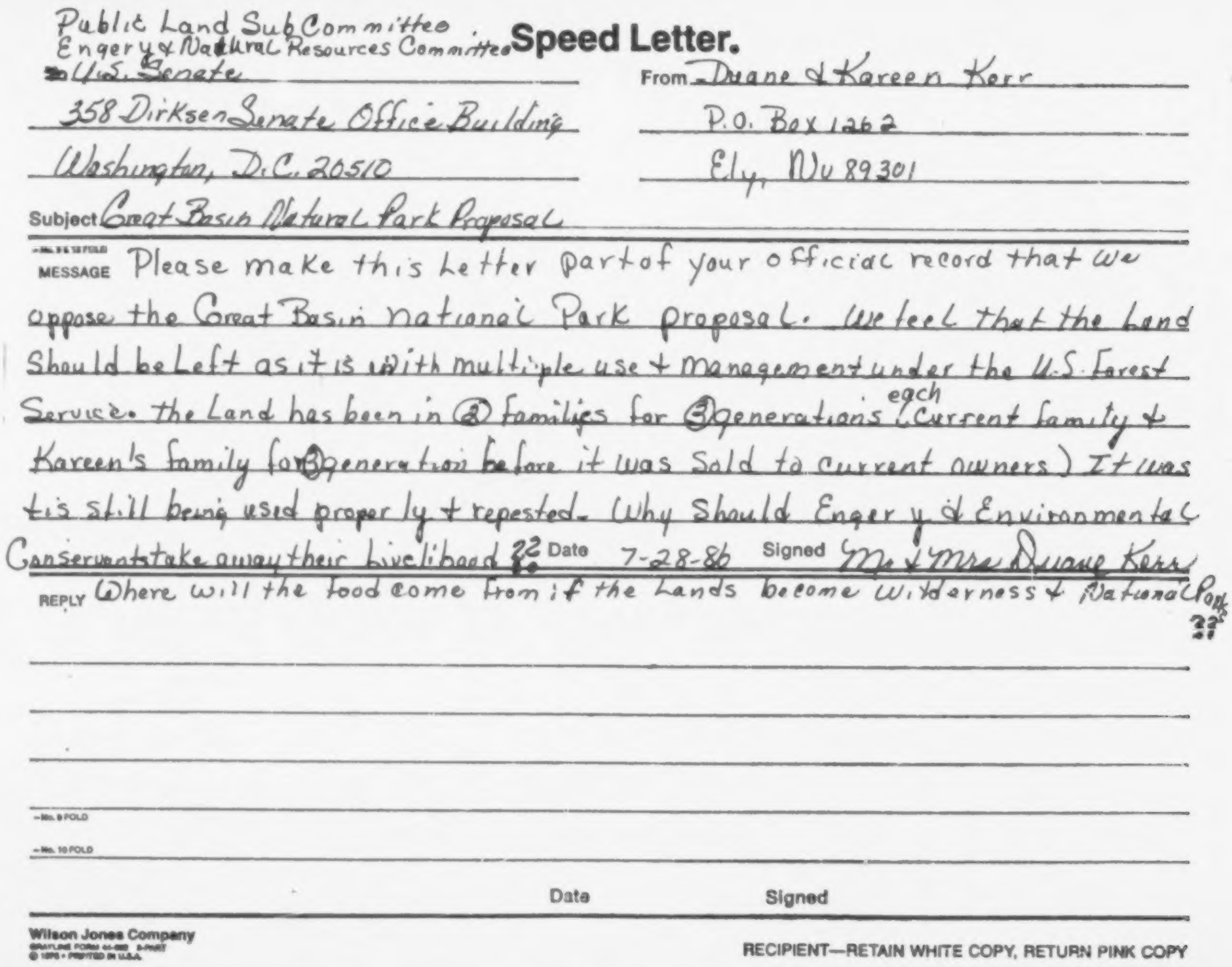
George Hernandez
1028 16th St
Ely. Nevada 89301

Public Land Sub-commitee
Energy & Natural Resourses Commission

I am writing to say I oppose creating the Great Basin National Park. This is a waste of the tax-payers money when trying to cut the budget. This land should stay multiple use land under the forest service.

I want this letter to become part of the National Record.

Sincerely,
George Hernandez



Speed Letter.

To Public Land SubCommittee
Engery & Natural Resources Committee
U.S. Senate
358 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

From Duane & Kareen Kerr
P.O. Box 1262
Ely, Nv 89301

Subject Great Basin Natural Park Proposal

MESSAGE Please make this Letter part of your official record that we oppose the Great Basin national Park proposal. We feel that the Land Should be Left as it is with multiple use + Management under the U.S. Forest Service. the Land has been in ② families for ③ generations each (Current family + Kareen's family for ③ generation before it was Sold to current owners) It was + is still being used properly + repested. Why Should Engery & Environmental Conservants take away their Livelihood ?? Date 7-28-86 Signed Mr + Mrs Duane Kerr

REPLY Where will the food come from if the Lands become Wilderness + National Parks ??

– No. 9 FOLD

– No. 10 FOLD

Date Signed

Wilson Jones Company

RECIPIENT—RETAIN WHITE COPY, RETURN PINK COPY

7-25-86

I am writing to express my opposition to the formation of the Great Basin National Park in the Utah-Nevada area. I strongly feel that it would serve a much better purpose to be left as it is with multiple use management by the Forest Service.

I request this correspondence to be accepted as a part of the official record in regards to the above proposition now in process of investigation.

I am totally against the formation of the Great Basin National Park.

Thank you

Mark + Kay Layland
Bx 667
1334- 7th West
Kemmerer Wy 83101

SENATOR CHIC HECHT
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1986 JUL 25 AM 10 20

Extension of the Oral Statement by Robert R. Jacobsen before the Subcommittee on Public Lands, Reserved Water and Resource Conservation concerning the proposed Great Basin National Park, Nevada

July 18, 1986

Mr. Chairman - I appreciate this opportunity to extend my oral statement before your subcommittee. I would not be doing so if I did not believe that my comments would be helpful to you in your drafting of legislation to authorize a Great Basin National Park.

It appears from the statewide support that this proposal has received, and the comments that were made by the Nevada delegation, that the time has finally arrived for such an action. It also appears that the major unresolved question is the appropriate size and configuration of the new area. My comments are keyed to this subject. They are based upon nearly 30 years of experience in the operation and management of National Park System areas - and upon more than 5 years experience in the NPS Branch of New Areas (during the great expansion period of the NPS in the late 60's and early 70's), when I worked with this subcommittee and with Members of Congress throughout the country in the creation of many new National Park System areas.

The establishment of a National Park Service area, like the birthing of a child, is not the final step in a total process - but is only the beginning of a never ending opportunity and responsibility. The product of either action needs to be carefully nurtured and cared for. While all of us have read and lamented over thalidomide babies that have little or no opportunity to live a normal life - we must also be aware that it is possible to have thalidomide parks. These are parks whose boundaries are poorly related to the purposes for which they were established, parks whose boundaries fail to include or satisfactorily safeguard their most important physical resources or the best of their interpretive or educational areas, parks whose boundaries do not permit proper development or future expansion of visitor use facilities or operational infrastructure, parks whose boundaries do not provide access corridors to allow visitors to gain entrance at key points along its border or to easily move within the area, and parks whose boundaries are drawn in a fashion that cause never-ending problems for the park manager and his/her park neighbors.

I have seen, and I have had to manage examples of each of these situations - nearly all of which could have been avoided with a bit more foresight during the all important "pre-natal" process. I don't think that you want a thalidomide park. I don't think you want your Great Basin National Park, in whatever size that you determine that it should be, to be operationally impaired because of poorly drawn boundaries.

I fully understand the political realities of establishing a national park, and understand that every one is a product of careful negotiations and trade offs. The following suggestions are intended to help you avoid the possibility of creating boundary problems. Their adoption would be of great assistance in the subsequent long term task of operating and managing the park.

1. Each section of each boundary segment should be carefully weighed on its individual merits. The National Parks and Conservation Association testimony contains a number of very worthwhile suggestions of resource additions that could be added with little or no REAL cost to miners, hunters or stockmen.

2. The National Park Service has studied the Wheeler Peak area for many years and has a number of professional park planners who have up to date information and expertise. If requested to provide personal or informal comments, they could be of much assistance to you.

3. The legislation could be greatly strengthened if donations of private land or interests in land could be accepted and added to the park without need for further legislation. This would permit and encourage park neighbors and the owners of mineral interests to benevolently participate in park affairs.

4. The legislation would be strengthened if equal value land exchanges were authorized between the park and owners of adjoining private land. This administrative opportunity to "rationalize" coterminous boundaries has proven to be extremely useful in providing mutually agreeable solutions to minor boundary problems.

5. The legislation should also permit the park to be expanded by administrative transfer, when mutually agreeable to both agencies, of any nearby or adjacent public lands. Such actions would, of course, be subject to full public participation.

In brief summary, I strongly believe that the boundary configuration of a National Park System area is of utmost importance in allowing the area and its managing agency to perform its public mission in an efficient and exemplary manner. Political realities during the authorization process sometimes prevent sufficient attention to this important matter. I strongly urge your consideration of the suggestions that I have offered so that the citizens of Nevada and the nation might have the best possible Great Basin National Park that is realistically achievable at this time.

Robert R. Jacobsen
Route #2, Box 377
Luray, VA 22835

SENATOR CHIC HECHT
WASHINGTON, D.C.
1986 JUL 28 PM 2 21

July 25, 1986

SENATOR CHIC HECHT
315 Russell Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hecht:

It has been brought to my attention that during the recent hearing you chaired concerning the proposed Great Basin National Park, you inquired publicly about me and my opinion.

I want you to know how pleased I am to be remembered and how honored to be mentioned during such an important event.

Thank you for your kind and considerate gesture.

Be assured of my appreciation for all your effort toward fulfilment of a long time dream we have labored for and shared -- a GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK for the State of Nevada.

Sincerely,
Mrs. N. E. (Hope) Broadbent

MRS. N. E. (HOPE) BROADBENT
703 Canyon Street
P.O. Box 630
Ely, Nevada 89301

July 28, 1986

Public Land Commission
Energy and Natural Resource Commission
U. S. Senate
358 Dirkson
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sirs,

We oppose the Great Basin National Park. We want it left as it is for multiple use, with management under the Forest Service.

We request you make this a part of the official record.

Sincerely,

Enid Stewart
Enid Stewart

Daniel Stewart
Daniel Stewart
P. O. Box 201
Alamo, Nevada 89001

July 28, 1986

Public Land Sub-Committee
Energy & Natural Resources Commission
U.S. Senate
358 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Sirs:

I strongly oppose the Great Basin National Park near Ely, NV. I feel the federal government does not need another National Park, as they cannot take care of the ones they have. I feel it should be left as multiple use land to benefit all our society.

I would like this letter to be part of the National Register.

Sincerely,
Cheryl F. Vogler
P.O. Box 418
Ely, NV. 89301

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WHITE PINE COUNTY SCHOOLS

PHONE 289-4851 • P.O. BOX 400 • EAST ELY, NEVADA 89315

July 9, 1986

FTR S. 2506

Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands,
Reserved Water & Resource Conservation
Attention Senator Chic Hecht
Room SD-308-Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Gentlemen:

I would like to go on record in favor and in support of the proposed Great Basin National Park. There are many reasons that I believe the creation of this national park is a correct and judicious action that will be of benefit to the nation, the State of Nevada, and the majority of the residents of White Pine County as well.

The Mt. Wheeler and Snake Range areas are priceless treasures that must be protected and preserved for the entire population of the United States. The beauty of the area, its solitude, uniqueness, and accessibility should be shared with the nation. I feel its beauty and features such as the Lehman Caves and beautiful stands of Bristlecone Pine are the equal of the other great national parks such as the Great Smoky, Yellowstone, Kings Canyon and many others. Preserving and sharing this area is a benefit for the entire nation.

The establishment of a national park will be invaluable to the State of Nevada not only in terms of the economic benefits it would bring directly but also because it would broaden the vision of Nevada to the nation. I believe that the nation's population as a whole views Nevada in a rather negative light and is not aware of the beauties of Nevada as a vacation land, a region of hard-working ranchers, small businesses, and "just plain good Americans." We are far more than an area for gambling and legalized prostitution.

The benefits to the local area could be immeasurable. This area has many interests and many people in occupations other than ranching and mining who must be given equal consideration in this process. Local governments are in tremendous need of economic stabilization in order to sustain services. The White Pine County School District is no different. In order to maintain a satisfactory level of service, economic development is essential. What other plan could assist us with such great benefits to so many.

Sincerely,

John F. Havertape

John F. Havertape, Ed.D.
Superintendent

JFH/mp

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Garrison, Utah 84728
July 9, 1986

SENATOR CHIC HECHT
WASHINGTON, D.C.
1986 JUL 16 AM 9 5

Honorable Senator Chic Hecht
302 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sir:

I respectfully request that Senate Bill no. 2206 not be voted out of the Public Lands Subcommittee.

We favor the multiple use principle of these public lands rather than recreation only. Under multiple use all resources, grazing, fish and game, water, recreation, timber, and mining contribute to our local and national economy.

We have used a part of these proposed park lands for many years as a summer range for our cattle. If this grazing is discontinued our ranching operation would be ruined, as we would not have anyway to care for our cattle during the summer months. We live in an isolated locality within the proposed park and it would be impossible to dispose of our crops anyway other than with livestock.

We have considerable trouble now with the deer eating and destroying our crops. If there was no hunting in this area the deer population would soon become so numerous we would be unable to raise a crop.

With no trapping or predatory animal control the predators would increase in corresponding numbers and would prey upon the livestock on our ranch and adjoining winter range.

Big Wash Canyon in the proposed park area furnishes us with culinary, livestock and irrigation water. In the event of establishment of the park these uses would be restricted, and would be a very serious handicap to us. We are particularily concerned about the contamination of our culinary water.

Very truly yours,

John E. Osborne
Marie E. Osborne

John E. Osborne
Marie Osborne

P.S.
We would appreciate this being made a part of the official record.

J.E.O
M.E.O

Garrison, Utah 84728
July 9, 1986

SENATOR CHIC HECHT
WASHINGTON, D.C.
1986 JUL 16 AM 10 12

Honorable Senator Chic Hecht
302 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sir:

The following testimony is offered in opposition to establish the Great Basin National Park in White Pine County, Nev.:

Since the inauguration of the Forest Service program and before, the area of this proposed park has been used for grazing of cattle and sheep and the local permittees who use these lands have built their entire livestock operations around them.

The Snake Range division of the Humboldt National Forest furnishes summer grazing for 2437 sheep and 571 cattle. These sheep and cattle are owned by stockman who own ranches in the surrounding valleys. These ranches have been dependent upon the use of these forest lands for a successful ranching operation since before 1900. Some 48½ miles of fence, 38 water troughs and 7 earthen tanks have been built by the Forest Service and the local ranches for better use and control.

We have what is commonly known in the livestock business as balanced operations; that is, the summer range, winter grazing, and ranches each complements the other and carry the livestock for their allotted time. If we were to lose any one of these operations, our entire operation would be thrown out of balance, thus ruining the good livestock setups we have. These forest grazing lands are the most important part of our operations, as the summer grazing is the most difficult to acquire. There are no other summer-grazing lands available in this vicinity should these forest lands be taken as a national park.

Water from the creeks in the area is used for livestock, and irrigational purposes. In event of withdrawal, these uses would be curtailed or restricted, which would be a serious handicap to our local residents, and would necessitate seeking other sources of water.

If our operations are curtailed, it will mean fewer permanent families in our small ranching communities. We need these families to maintain our schools, churches, and our way of life.

Local ranchers are dependent on the area proposed as a national park as a source of post,poles, firewood and lumber. If we are to lose this source of timber, it would necessitate hauling our timber from great distances.

We are very much concerned about the buildup in numbers of game and predatory animals and their overflow onto our ranches and adjoining winter ranges if this proposed national park is created.

The Multiple use concept as administered by the United States Forest Service has worked successfully for many years.

We respectfully request the foregoing statements be made a part of the official record and that Senate Bill no. 2206 not be voted out of the Public Lands Subcommittee.

Respectfully yours,

Mollie M. Gonder
Wayne D. Gonder

Mollie C. Gonder
Wayne D. Gonder

American Wilderness Alliance
7600 East Arapahoe Road / Suite 114 / Englewood, Colorado 80112 / (303) 771-0380

July 14, 1986

Senator Malcolm Wallop, Chairman
Subcommittee on Public Lands & Reserved Water
Energy & Natural Resources Committee
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Wallop:

Please make this letter a part of the official record of the public hearing being held July 18 in Washington, D. C., regarding the proposed Great Basin National Park near Ely, Nevada.

The American Wilderness Alliance is a western-based national non-profit organization whose members and staff are working to conserve the nation's publicly owned wildlands, wildlife habitat and free-flowing rivers.

The Alliance has members throughout the United States, including in Nevada, and many of them have used and enjoyed for park purposes the outstanding natural attributes of the proposed Great Basin National Park and Preserve, as contained in the House-passed Nevada Wilderness and Park Bill by Representative Harry Reid.

The American Wilderness Alliance strongly supports establishment of an outstanding 129,000 acre Great Basin National Park and a 47,000 acre Preserve (which would be open to hunting), as provided in the aforementioned House-passed measure.

We also support establishment of the 11 Nevada areas totalling 592,000 acres of wilderness, as provided in the bill approved by the House.

Unlike most other western states, Nevada lacks a national park. The Great Basin has been studied and a part of it recommended for national park status for 50 years. There is no need for additional study. No proven significant operable commodity resources would be foregone with the establishment of the park and preserve.

Tourism and outdoor recreation is one of Nevada's major industries. The Great Basin National Park and Preserve would promote this industry and generate more millions of dollars for Nevada.

It is time that the nation quit fiddling around with the Nevada park idea and promptly enact legislation establishing the magnificent 129,000 acre Great Basin National Park and 45,000 acre Preserve before the area is needlessly developed and its natural attributes no longer qualify for park protective status.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Clifton R. Merritt
Executive Director

July 16. 1986

2009 Wengert
Las Vegas, NV
89104

Malcolm Wallop, Chairman
US Senate subcommittee on Public Lands
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wallop:

I am unable to attend the public hearings in Washington on the creation of the Great Basin National Park. However, I would like to add my comments to the record.

The Great Basin National Park has been 20 years in the making. I personally would prefer to see the area included in Wilderness designation, but I also cannot ignore the economic impact that the creation of this park would make on the State of Nevada as well as on the economically impacted areas around Ely.

If the image of Nevada can be improved by the addition of this park, an addition of only 2% to our state's tourism would generate more income than the total tax revenue generated by the entire mining industry in Nevada. And yet, we continue to hear from the mining industry lobby that mining would be destroyed by the simple addition of this National Park.

I am concerned that the Federal Government owns 87% of Nevada, I am concerned that the one million residents who reside on the remaining 13% of the land are NOT represented. It is unfortunate when politics enters into the question of protection for our natural resources. I believe that your committee should consider carefully the impact that the creation of this Park will have on that silent majority, the people of the State, as well as the good of the United States as a whole.

1. The area certainly qualifies as a National Park
2. The economic needs have been assessed and the need is been proved over and over for 20 years.
3. I am disabled and a Grandmother. I need places where I can go with my grandchildren and enjoy the outdoors. A National Park provides those facilities.
4. I support Friends of Nevada Wilderness' concept of 1.5 million acres of Wilderness in Nevada. Please try and get a wilderness bill through the Senate this session.

I ask that you, as Chair, provide that historic step and create the Great Basin National Park.

The minimum size that should be considered is the size as passed by the House, 129,000 acres. I also approve the setting aside of additional 45,000 acres as a preserve to let those who MUST hunt have a place to do so.

Sincerely,

Lois Sagel

Lois Sagel

cc: Senator Hecht
Senator Domenici
Senator Hatfield
Senator Weicker, Jr
Senator Murkowki
Senator Bumpers
Senator Melcher
Senator Bradley
Senator Bingaman

Wildlife Management Institute
Suite 725, 1101 14th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005 • 202/371-1808

DANIEL A. POOLE
President
L. R. JAHN
Vice-President
L. L. WILLIAMSON
Secretary
WESLEY M. DIXON, Jr.
Board Chairman

[illegible] 8:43

July 16, 1986

Honorable Malcolm Wallop, Chairman
Subcommittee on Public Lands
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wallop:

I would appreciate having this letter included in the hearing record on S. 2506, to establish a Great Basin National Park in Nevada.

We question the merits of creating a park, even a small one, in Nevada. Support for the park, without question, arises more from local hope for economic gain than from any imperative need to protect or enhance natural considerations, which already exist under Forest Service administration.

As contemplated in S. 2506, a park, with grazing, no water rights and remote from the urban-oriented populations that may be attracted to such areas, would add little to the national park system. It would interject another federal agency into an area that already is under adequate management for public use and appreciation.

If anything, the area might better remain under Forest Service administration as a national recreation area. Should the committee decide that a park merits authorization, then we urge that the recommendation of the Nevada Department of Wildlife be followed in drawing the park boundary. Areas identified by the Department should be excluded because of an on-going bighorn sheep restoration project and long-established use of others for mule-deer hunting.

Sincerely,

Daniel A Poole

Daniel A. Poole
President

DAP:dt

Rose Strickland 1685 KINGS ROW, RENO, NV 89503

1986 JUL [illegible] AM 10: 21

July 13, 1986

The Honorable Malcolm Wallop, Chairman
Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands
Rm: SD-308
Washington, DC 20510

Re: S.2506

Dear Senator Wallop,

As a Nevadan, I am writing to enthusiastically support the designation of the 174,000 acre Southern Snake Range as the Great Basin National Park and Reserve. As a frequent visitor to Mt. Wheeler, I have long felt that the spectacular mountain, bristlecone pine forests, Lehman Caves, as well as the adjacent scenic peaks and canyons, arch, icefield and lakes should receive national park status.

Senator Hecht's bill is woefully inadequate. His postage-stamp proposal apparently excludes most of the area's outstanding features and does a disservice to the huge majority of Nevadans who want a national park in our state. The opposition to the park is very small and consists of a few individuals who claim their commercial interests may be impaired. I urge you to reject the arguments of a few who are attempting to thwart the desires of not only Nevadans but many other Americans who wish to see the Great Basin adequately represented in our National Park System.

Like most Nevadans, I am tired of our state being considered fit only for nuclear waste dumps and other activities not "safe enough" for more populous states. We want a FIRST CLASS national park, not the chewed over remnants of this incredibly beautiful area that miners and ranchers don't want or can't use. Wyoming has wonderful national parks of which the entire nation is proud and loves. Please help Nevada to obtain its rightful recognition as a place of outstanding natural beauty and national value.

Thank you for considering my comments. Please enter these remarks in the official record for the hearing on July 18, 1986.

Sincerely,
Rose Strickland
Rose Strickland

cc: Senator Hecht
Senator Laxalt
Representative Vucanovich
Representative Reid

Nevada Cattlemen's Association
419 Railroad Street - Elko, Nevada 89801
(702) 738-9214

July 8, 1986

Senator Chic Hecht
Room 297, Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20510

Attn: Scott Cameron

Dear Senator Hecht:

The following is testimony from the Nevada Cattlemen's Association on creation of the Great Basin National Park in the Snake range of eastern Nevada to be presented to the Subcommittee on Public Lands, Reserved Water and Resource Conservation on the Committee of Energy and Natural Resources, July 18, 1986 hearing.

The Nevada Cattlemen's Association opposes the Great Basin Park proposal due to the detrimental impact to public land permittees in the park area. The members directly effected and membership in general oppose the Park due to economic impact to the Park Services as stated in the attached resolution passed at the 1985 joint convention. NvCA is not convinced that the economic benefit to the area has been adequately documented and the disadvantages are far greater.

Sincerely,

Carmen Goicoechea

Carmen Goicoechea
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

/kk

Resolution No. 14

Public Lands and Forest Committee

NEVADA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION AND
NEVADA WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION
JOINT CONVENTION
JOHN ASCUAGA'S NUGGET
NOVEMBER 13, 1985

WHEREAS: The United States Government is currently running a serious budgetary deficit, and

WHEREAS: The Park Service may currently be underfunded for its present obligations, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Nevada Cattlemens Association and the Nevada Wool Growers Association oppose the creation of the Great Basin National Park in the Snake Range in eastern Nevada.

Directed to: Nevada Congressional Delegation
Governor Richard Bryan
United States Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management

July 16, 1986

Honorable Members of Congress:

I offer this written statement because I am unable to appear and personally testify.

I am a native of this area and have lived most of my life here. I was educated locally and at the University of Nevada in Reno. I obtained a Juris Doctorate Degree in law from the Washington College of Law, American University, Washington, D. C. in 1963. From 1963 through 1965, I worked as a General Attorney in the Solicitor's Office, Interior Department, Washington, D. C. During those years I worked specifically and only on legal problems for National Parks and Monuments. I returned to Nevada in late 1965 and served for two (2) years as Assistant United States Attorney, Department of Justice stationed in Reno, Nevada. I returned to Ely in 1967 and was elected District Attorney at that time. I served as District Attorney with private legal practice from 1967, and with re-election until December, 1973. I was then appointed District Judge and have been elected several times. I have now served nearly twelve (12) years in that capacity in White Pine, Lincoln and Eureka Counties. I am married and have four (4) children working or attending schools in the State. I love the outdoors and actively hunt, fish, and enjoy all aspects of rural Eastern Nevada. I offer this statement as a native Nevada resident and private citizen.

I am familiar with the area where the National Park is proposed. I have hunted deer there, fished for trout in the streams, and camped out in the forest. I have visited some of the high mountain lakes and when younger, climbed to the top of Wheeler Peak where you can see into five States. I usually go through Lehman Caves once a year. I have also ridden a motor trail bike into some of the forest and mountains where no roads exist. I believe that the valley floor, the foot hills, caves, streams, mountains, and lakes reflect the Great Basin and contains some of the most startlingly beautiful country that God has created anywhere. It also provides home for most of the wildlife that has been there for many thousands of years. Coyote, antelope, rabbits and other small animals abound on the valley floor, deer and other animals in the forest, and in the sky the Red Tail Hawk and the great Golden Eagle. The park area also contains stands of the Bristlecone Pine Trees over 4,000 years old and said to be the oldest living things on earth. It is inconceivable that this area would not be a National Park.

I understand that there are bills in both house of Congress; the difference primarily concerning the size of the Park. Clearly we hope that the effect in Ranching, i.e, Grazing Rights and Mining, if any, now exists, will be miniscule. However, this Park should be large enough to serve the many thousands of visitors it will draw. Also, it should be large enough to contain the many mountain streams and the special areas which offer the greatest beauty and significance. Nearly all of the surrounding area is Federal land. Hopefully the Park will contain something more than only the mountain tops. I hope a sensible and reasonable resolution will find a real compromise between the bills in both houses of Congres in the interest of the general public.

From the standpoint of those of us who live in this part of rural Eastern Nevada, we very badly need the economic base and stability that this park could provide. White Pine and Lincoln Counties are the two most economically depressed counties in the State. White Pine County usually has the highest rate of unemployment in the State as a result of the loss of the Copper Industry several years ago.

In round numbers the total visitors to the five (5) Utah National Parks for 1984 are as follows: Arches, 345,200; Bryce Canyon, 495,100; Canyon Lands, 102,500; Capital Reef, 496,200; and Zion, 1,377,300.

Some of California's National Parks drew visitors as follows in 1984: Kings Canyon, 937,300; Lassen Volcanic, 463,000; Sequoia, 979,600; and Yosemite, 2,738,500. Contrast those figures with the Lehman Cave National Monument, 37,700 visitors for 1984. There is a very obvious opportunity for visitors of parks in Utah to travel into the Great Basin Park and then into California.

I believe that the time for the Great Basin National Park has finally come. Nevada is the only Western State in America without a National Park. The lands, streams, lakes, and mountains are for the most part Federal property owned by every citizen of the United States of America. The area met National Park criteria standards twenty years ago. It still meets all of those standards. Long before any of us or our ancestors came to this country the American Indian lived here. He used the lands, fished in the lakes and streams, hunted the animals, and enjoyed the great beauty of Eastern Nevada. The Indian respected the land and passed it on from generation to generation intact for thousands of years. We reap the benefit of that heritage. A new opportunity to continue this policy on into the future now exists for this small area of the Great Basin. The Federal law that established the National Park Service says it very well. *"...The fundamental purpose of the... Parks...is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."* 16 U.S.C.A. §1.

I thank the committee for allowing me the opportunity to present my views. I have great confidence that the Congress and the President will act in the best interest of everyone in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Merlyn H Hoyt

MERLYN H. HOYT

American Farm Bureau Federation

WASHINGTON OFFICE
600 MARYLAND AVE., S.W.
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20024
AREA CODE 202 - 484-2222

July 25, 1986

The Honorable Malcolm Wallop
Chairman
Public Lands, Reserved Water and
Resource Conservation Subcommittee
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: S. 2506, A Bill to Establish A Great Basin National Park in the State of Nevada

Dear Senator Wallop:

The American Farm Bureau, the nation's largest organization of farmers and ranchers, opposes S. 2506, the Great Basin National Park bill. Farm Bureau has long-standing policy opposing any expansion of the national park system. Expansion of national parks means condemnation of private lands, loss of grazing rights and the threat of restrictions on the use of adjoining private and public lands. Farm Bureau has long supported multiple use management of our public lands. National park designation is one of the most restrictive uses of our public lands and is therefore opposed by Farm Bureau.

In spite of our position, however, we understand that there is significant support for the designation of a Great Basin National Park in Nevada. We appreciate the efforts of the bill's sponsors in Sections 3(e) and 3(f) to protect existing grazing rights. However, if S. 2506 is enacted, we believe the following additional amendments must be included to reduce the impact on livestock permittees:

1. A requirement that the grazing program within the park continue to be administered by the U.S. Forest Service. We believe that such an amendment would protect grazing rights and help reduce management conflicts between permittees and public land managers.

2. Fair compensation for the loss of grazing rights if it is impractical for the permittee to continue grazing activities. Compensation could include direct compensation or assistance in making improvements on other grazing lands to increase carrying capacity.

We urge adoption of these amendments to S. 2506. We appreciate the opportunity to present our views and request that our statement be made a part of the hearing record.

Sincerely,

John C Datt

John C. Datt
Executive Director
Washington Office

JCD/lh
cc: Subcommittee Members
Senator Orrin Hatch
Senator Jake Garn
Senator Paul Laxalt

RICHARD H. BRYAN
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
STATE MULTIPLE USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS
201 S. FALL STREET, ROOM 120
CAPITOL COMPLEX
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89710
(702) 885-4363

1986 JUL 21 AM 10 04

July 15, 1986

The Honorable Malcolm Wallop
Chairman, Senate Public Lands Subcommittee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

FTK
52506

Dear Senator Wallop:

On April 11, 1986, the Nevada State Multiple Use Advisory Committee on Federal Lands met in Ely, Nevada to hear testimony on the proposed National Park for the Wheeler Park Area. The Committee, which is comprised of thirteen members appointed by the Governor, heard considerable testimony from both park proponents and opponents. A field trip to the proposed park area was also held.

On the basis of information and testimony heard, the Committee adopted Recommendation #86-2 which addresses the park proposal. The Committee felt that a national recreation area designation should also be considered for the area as an alternative to the national park proposal. A comprehensive natural resource, environmental and economic evaluation of each alternative, including a development and operational plan, should be prepared to provide the information necessary on which to make an appropriate decision. The Recommendation also proposed that a reclassification of the area should be considered in a separate bill and not be included in a Nevada wilderness bill or any other bill.

A copy of Recommendation #86-2 is enclosed for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Del Grosso
Assistant Secretary

MD/sb

Enclosure

cc: Multiple Use Committee Members

RECOMMENDATION

NEVADA STATE MULTIPLE USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS

#86-2

MANAGEMENT OF THE WHEELER PEAK AREA IN NEVADA

WHEREAS, the Wheeler Peak area of the south Snake Range in White Pine County is an area having exceptional scenic beauty, unique and varied recreational opportunities, mineral resources, livestock grazing, historic features and other outstanding natural and cultural attributes; and

WHEREAS, one section of land in this area is currently the Lehman Caves National Monument, and the remainder is in the Humboldt National Forest, with some of the national forest land being considered for wilderness designation; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 3302 of the Ninety-Ninth Congress would instead designate this area a national park; and

WHEREAS, it has also been suggested that the designation of the area as a National Recreation Area might be appropriate as an alternative to consider; and

WHEREAS, there is considerable public discussion and debate regarding the most appropriate classification for the Wheeler Peak area; and

WHEREAS, White Pine citizens have expressed either support for, or objection to, a change in the area's status, with consideration for wilderness designation receiving minimal support; and

WHEREAS, there has been little systematic study of the actual benefits or impacts of either a park or a recreation area, as compared to the current management situation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RECOMMENDED that a comprehensive natural resource, environmental, and economic evaluation be prepared by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior concerning all aspects of establishing a National Park or a National Recreation Area in the Wheeler Peak area, including a development and operational plan for each classification; and

BE IT FURTHER RECOMMENDED that if findings indicate that there is a local, state, and national need to reclassify the Wheeler Peak area, that such reclassification be considered by Congress in a separate bill covering only this proposal, and that if study shows that a change in classification would be inappropriate, then no action should be taken.

Julian C. Smith J.

JULIAN C. SMITH, JR., CHAIRMAN

ADOPTED: APRIL 11, 1986

Defenders
OF WILDLIFE

1986 JUL 18 AM 8 39

July 14, 1986

S2506
ETK

Senator Malcolm Wallop, Chairman
Subcommittee on Public Lands,
 Reserved Water, and Resource Conservation
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
358 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Wallop:

Defenders of Wildlife is pleased to learn that your Subcommittee may be holding a hearing on July 18 with respect to the proposed Great Basin National Park and Preserve in Nevada. While we will not be represented at this July 18 hearing, we wish to submit this letter as our comments and recommendations. Please include this letter in the July 18 hearing record.

Defenders of Wildlife strongly supports and urges the Subcommittee to approve H.R. 3302, Congressman Harry Reid's excellent "Nevada Wilderness Protection Act." H.R. 3302 would establish a 174,000-acre Great Basin National Park and Preserve. This legislation would also designate 11 national forest roadless areas totaling 592,400 acres as wilderness.

We commend the House for passing H.R. 3302 on a voice vote on April 30. We hope the Subcommittee will expedite passage of H.R. 3302.

In contrast, we urge the Subcommittee to oppose S. 722, the competing Nevada wilderness legislation. S. 722 would only designate 4 areas, comprising a meager 137,000 acres, as wilderness. We believe that S. 722 would not provide adequate protection for Nevada's most important and magnificent roadless areas.

Again, please support and work for early enactment of the House-passed H.R. 3302. Thank you very much for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Richard Spotts
js

Richard Spotts
California/Nevada Representative
Defenders of Wildlife
RS/js
cc: Interested parties

July 12, 1986

To Whom it may concern:

We, Fred P. Conde and Roberta S. Conde, of Garrison, Utah, do hereby protest the proposed GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK.

We do not have grazing rights, but we do use the back roads for enjoyment and pleasure.

The monies should be used for other projects as the Lehman Cave Monument is perfect for our mountains.

Fred Conde

Roberta S. Conde

July 14, 1986

Public Lands Subcommittee
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
358 Dirksen
U. S. Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

RE: Proposed Great Basin National Park

Dear Sirs:

I am Dean Baker, a rancher in Baker, Nevada. I have a special concern about this area being considered for a national park. Our water originates in and flows from the Snake Range in the proposed Great Basin National Park. We have fields, meadows, and grazing rights in and adjacent to this area. We believe that all of these resources will be negatively affected by the creation of any park and hence oppose any national park in this area.

Looking at the issue in a larger sense, I believe that a thoughtful and responsible look at the issue would eliminate a park due to ecological and economic reasons.

The nature of the area which includes narrow canyons and steep hills would concentrate the people in a relatively small area. As a rancher who depends upon sustained yield of natural resources, I know these areas cannot stand the heavy use it would require to give an economic boost to the local economy. I believe that knowledgeable conservationists who have studied the area agree with me.

The economic benefits, I believe, are at best very debatable. It is certain that there will be losses to ranchers, hunters, gatherers of natural resources, miners, and others with the benefits being unknown.

The greatest clear cut benefit is that it will look nice in a Nevada tourist brochure to have a national park. I believe this is hardly reason enough to justify the costs, restrictions, and re-allocation of resources that would come with a national park.

Sincerely,

Dean Baker
P. O. Box 548
Baker, Nevada 89311